
NARUTO
SHONEN JUMP MANGA
Story & Art by
Masashi Kishimoto
volume 37





岸本斉史

It was fixed for the graphic novel, but when Number 334 ("The Black Metamorphoses...!!") was printed in *Jump* it was still in penciled format. I had herniated a disk for the first time in my life and just couldn't sit at my desk... Please forgive me for the hard-on-the-eyes manuscript.

—Masashi Kishimoto, 2007

Author/artist Masashi Kishimoto was born in 1974 in rural Okayama Prefecture, Japan. After spending time in art college, he won the Hop Step Award for new manga artists with his manga **Karakuri** (Mechanism). Kishimoto decided to base his next story on traditional Japanese culture. His first version of **Naruto**, drawn in 1997, was a one-shot story about fox spirits; his final version, which debuted in **Weekly Shonen Jump** in 1999, quickly became the most popular ninja manga in Japan.



NARUTO VOL. 37
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

STORY AND ART BY MASASHI KISHIMOTO

Translation/Mari Morimoto
English Adaptation/Deric A. Hughes & Benjamin Raab
Touch-up Art & Lettering/Inori Fukuda Trant
Design/Sean Lee
Editor/Joel Enos

Editor in Chief, Books/Alvin Lu
Editor in Chief, Magazines/Marc Weidenbaum
VP, Publishing Licensing/Rika Inouye
VP, Sales & Product Marketing/Gonzalo Ferreyra
VP, Creative/Linda Espinosa
Publisher/Hyoe Narita

 A CIP catalogue record for this book is available from the British Library.

Printed in the U.S.A.

Published by VIZ Media, LLC
P.O. Box 77010
San Francisco, CA 94107

SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition
10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
First printing, February 2009



www.viz.com

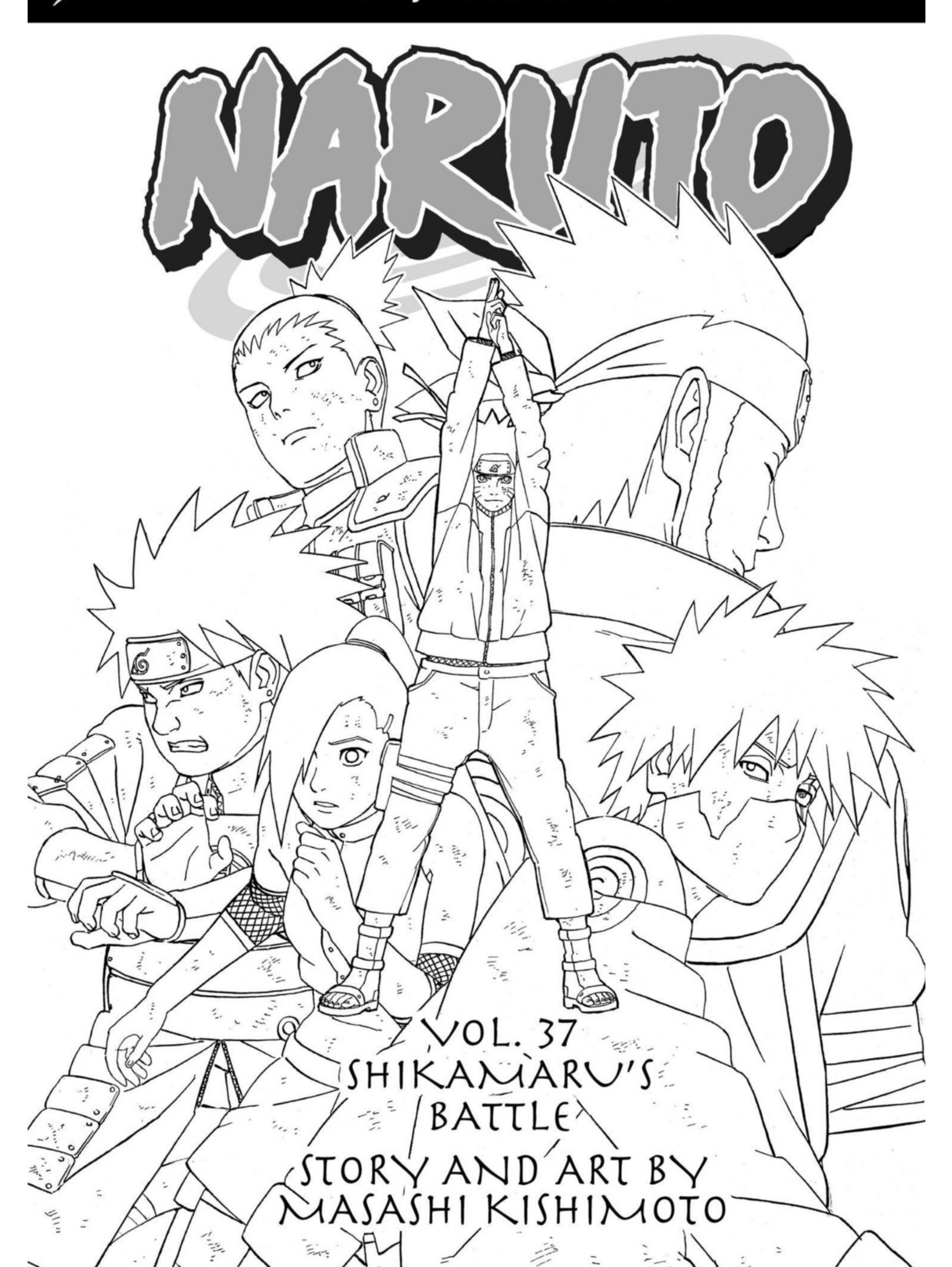


PARENTAL ADVISORY
NARUTO is rated T for Teen and is recommended for ages 13 and up. This volume contains realistic and fantasy violence.

ratings.viz.com



SHONEN JUMP MANGA EDITION















The Story So Far…

Against all odds, Uzumaki Naruto, the student least likely to graduate from the Ninja Academy in Konohagakure, becomes a ninja along with his classmates—and closest friends—Sasuke and Sakura. During the Chûnin Selection Exams, however, the turncoat ninja Orochimaru launches *Operation Destroy Konoha,* forcing Naruto's mentor, the Third Hokage, to sacrifice his own life to stop the attack and save the village.

Further tragedy follows when Sasuke—now one of Konoha's best and brightest shinobi—falls prey to Orochimaru's schemes and becomes his hapless thrall. Though Naruto fights valiantly to stop Sasuke from becoming slave to one of their worst enemies, he ultimately fails. Sasuke flees to Orochimaru, and Naruto vows to rescue his friend someday…

Two years pass. Naruto and his comrades grow up and track down Sasuke. However, they are left in the dust again by Sasuke's immense power and he gets away once more.

In order to gain strength himself, Naruto trains with Kakashi again. Elsewhere, Asuma dies during a battle against an Akatsuki two-man team. What will the surviving Cell Number 10 do now?!

CHARACTERS

Sakura
サクラ

Naruto
ナルト

Sasuke
サスケ

Sai サイ

Yamato
ヤマト

Kakashi
カカシ

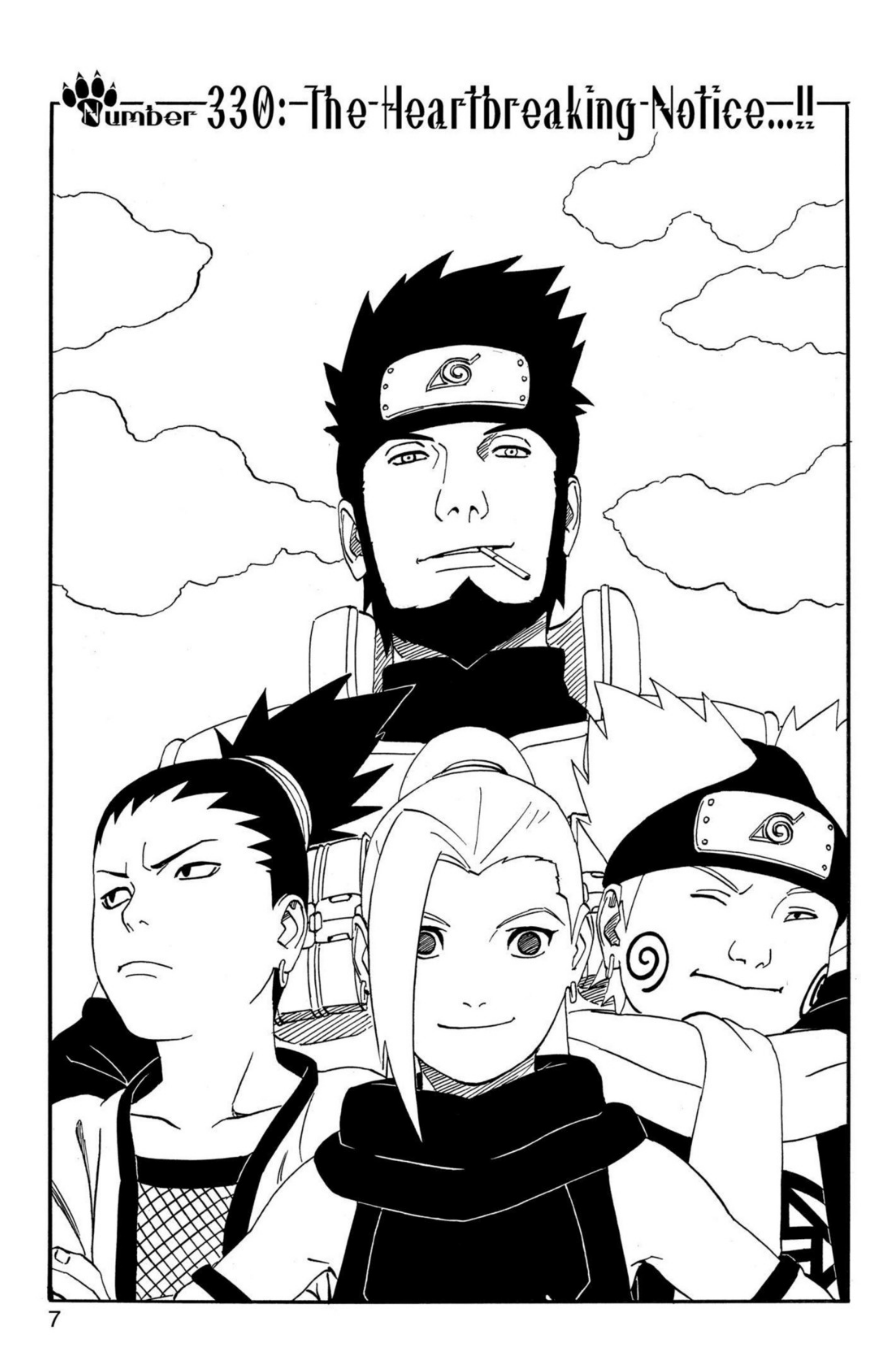


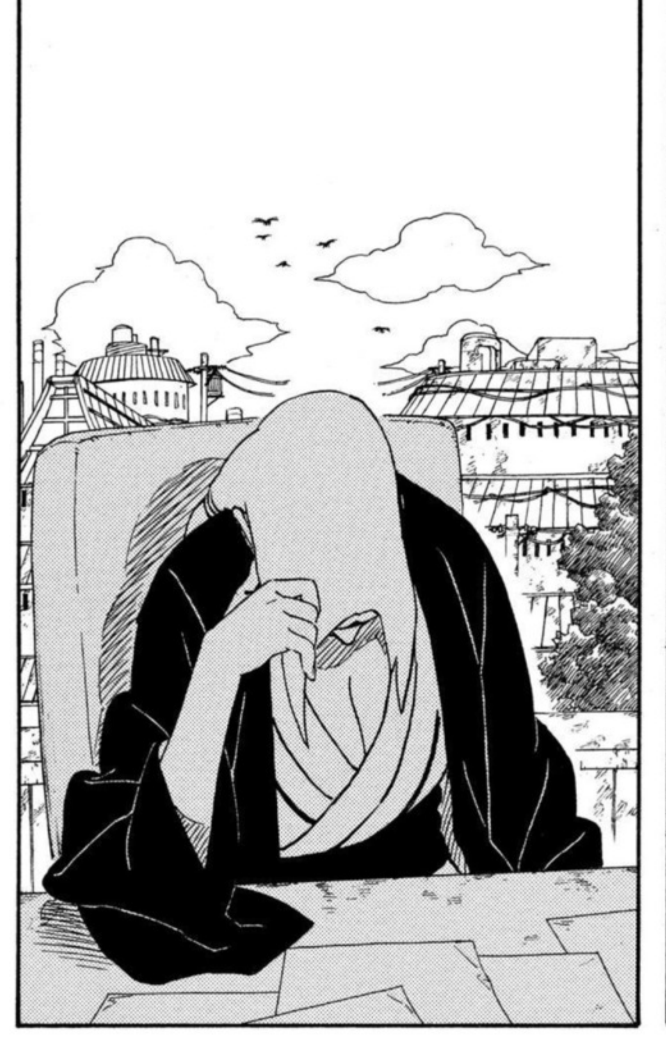
NARUTO

VOL. 37
SHIKAMARU'S BATTLE

CONTENTS




Number 330: The Heartbreaking Notice...!!



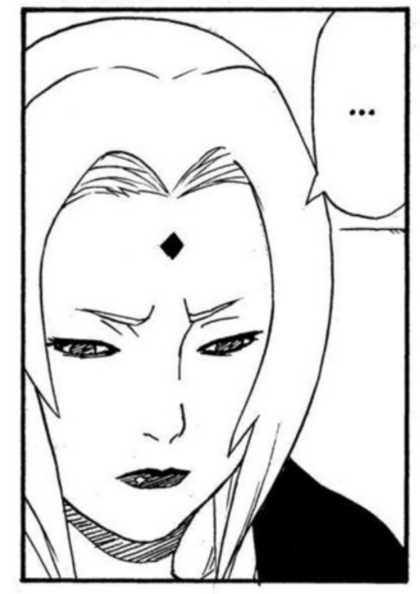


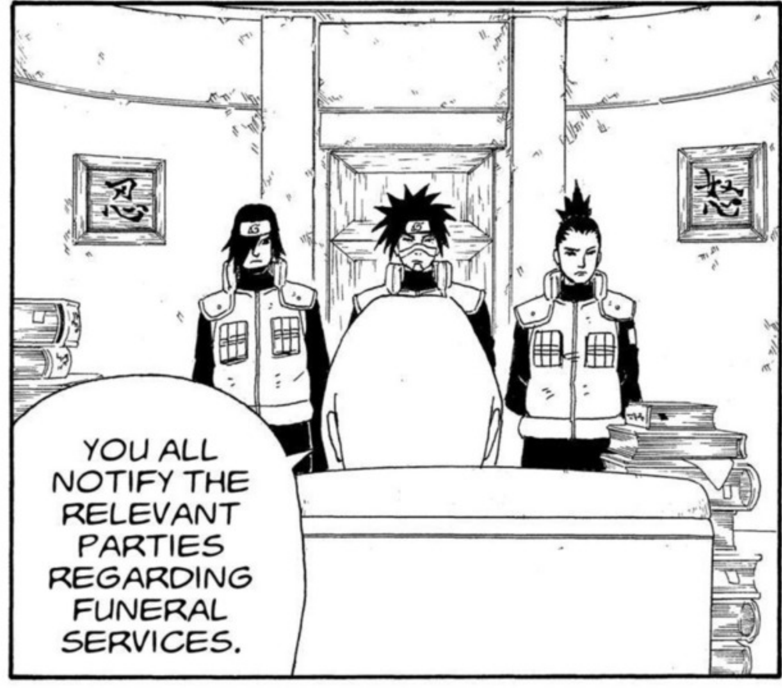
I SEE...


READ THIS WAY


UM...
WHAT ABOUT KURE-NAI...

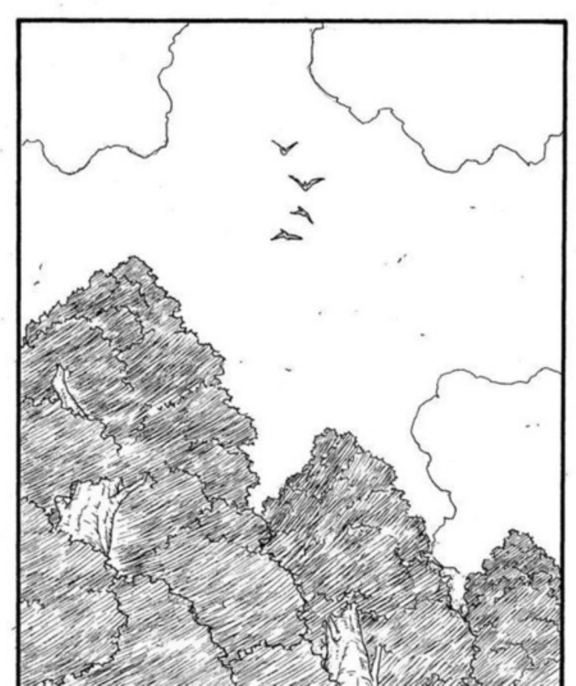

...

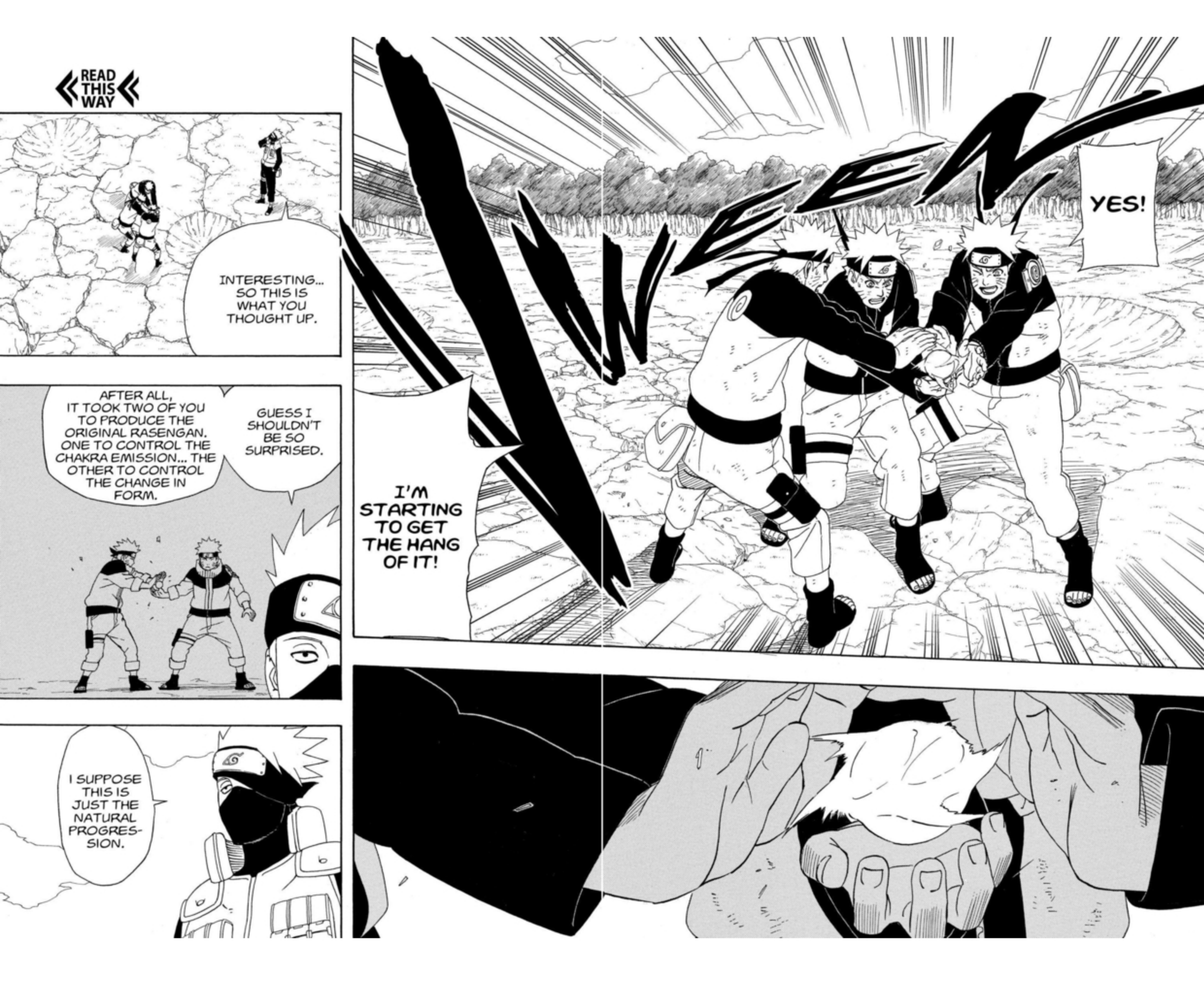

...


YOU ALL NOTIFY THE RELEVANT PARTIES REGARDING FUNERAL SERVICES.


...I'LL TELL KURENAI...
NO... I'LL DO IT.


I'VE GOT CAPTAIN ASUMA'S LAST WORDS TO HER, SO...

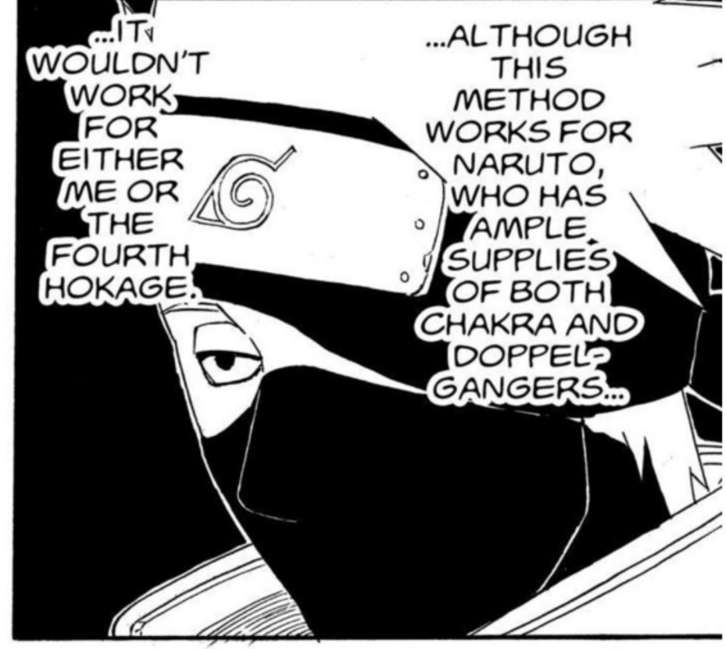


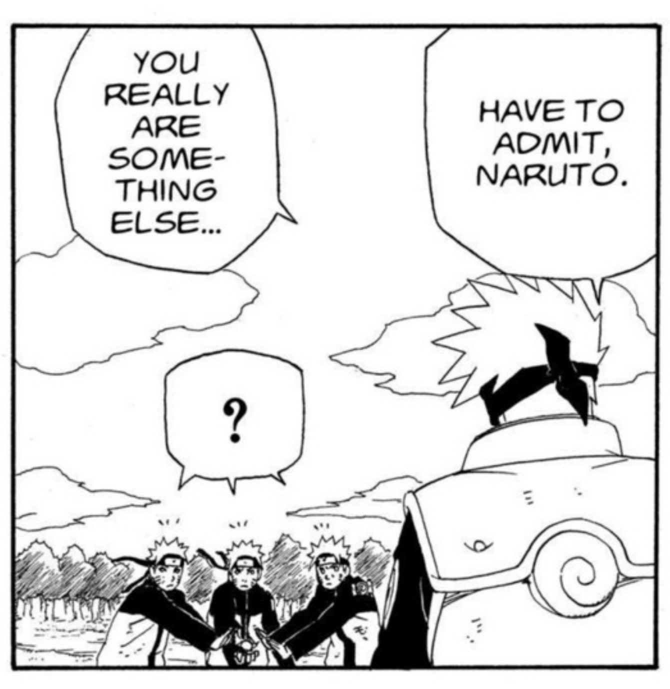

READ THIS WAY
YES!
I'M STARTING TO GET THE HANG OF IT!
INTERESTING... SO THIS IS WHAT YOU THOUGHT UP.
GUESS I SHOULDN'T BE SO SURPRISED.
AFTER ALL, IT TOOK TWO OF YOU TO PRODUCE THE ORIGINAL RASENGAN. ONE TO CONTROL THE CHAKRA EMISSION... THE OTHER TO CONTROL THE CHANGE IN FORM.
I SUPPOSE THIS IS JUST THE NATURAL PROGRES-SION.


THAT'S RIGHT!
ALL I NEEDED TO DO WAS CREATE A THIRD ME TO CONTROL THE WIND CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE.


...LIKE YOU SAID, IF YOU CAN'T LOOK TO THE LEFT AND THE RIGHT AT THE SAME TIME...
...YOU NEED TO CREATE A DOUBLE WHO CAN CHECK OUT THE OTHER DIRECTION FOR YOU!
TWO HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE!


WITH MY DOPPEL-GANGER PROVIDING THE CLUE EARLIER.
...


...ALTHOUGH THIS METHOD WORKS FOR NARUTO, WHO HAS AMPLE SUPPLIES OF BOTH CHAKRA AND DOPPEL-GANGERS...
...IT WOULDN'T WORK FOR EITHER ME OR THE FOURTH HOKAGE.


HAVE TO ADMIT, NARUTO.
YOU REALLY ARE SOME-THING ELSE...
?


READ THIS WAY


I THINK...
...I'M FINALLY STARTING TO LIKE YOU!


HUH???

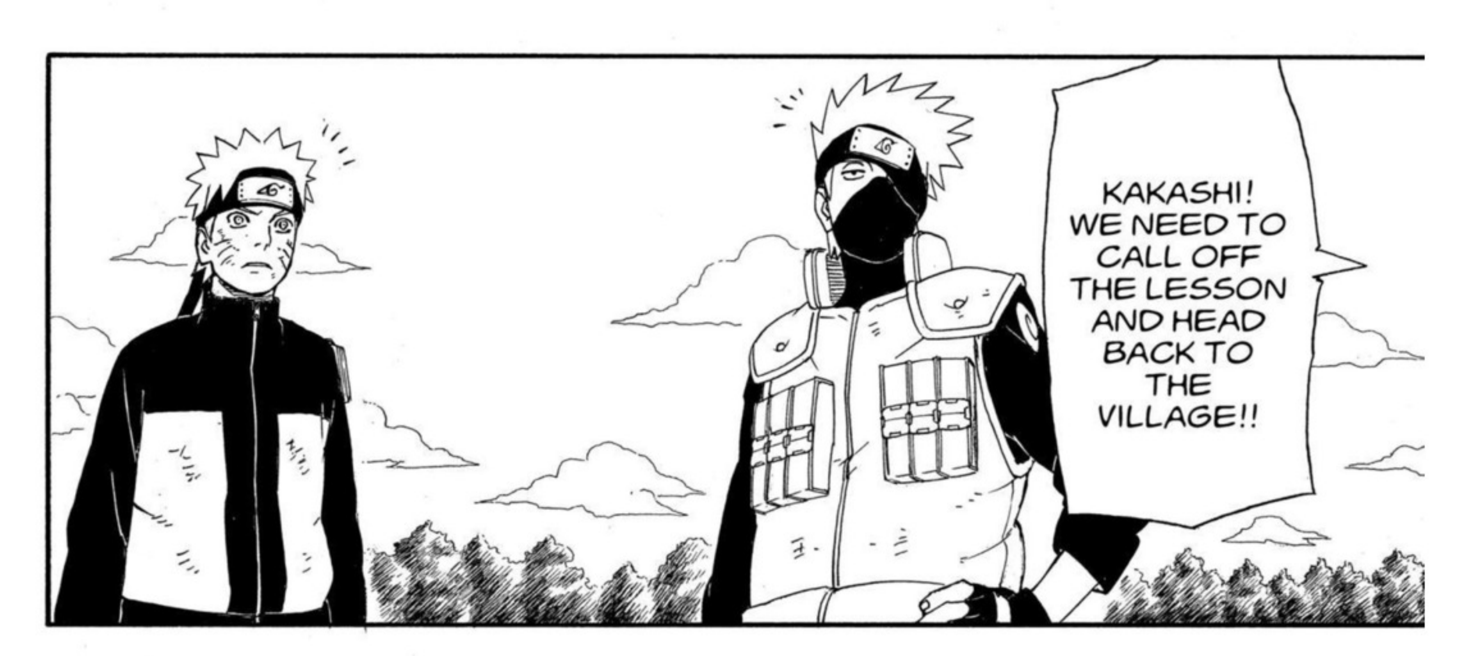

WAH!
!
POP


VWOOSH
AW, MAN! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU DID!
YOU MADE ME LOSE CONTROL OF THE JUTSU!!

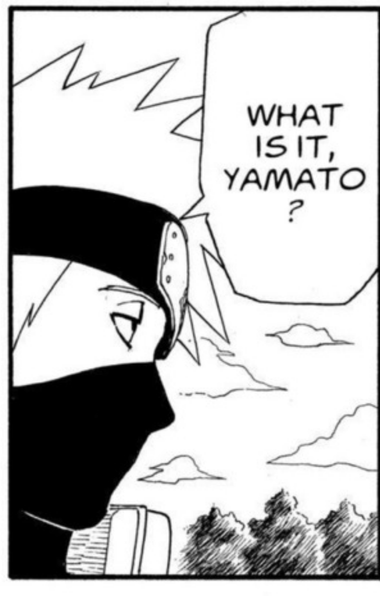

OKAY, WAIT... THAT DIDN'T COME OUT RIGHT...
WHAT I WAS TRYING TO SAY IS...
NEVER-MIND!!
BOOF
BOOF


SWISH
?!
REPORT-ING IN.


...
WHAT'S GOING ON...?


KAKASHI! WE NEED TO CALL OFF THE LESSON AND HEAD BACK TO THE VILLAGE!!

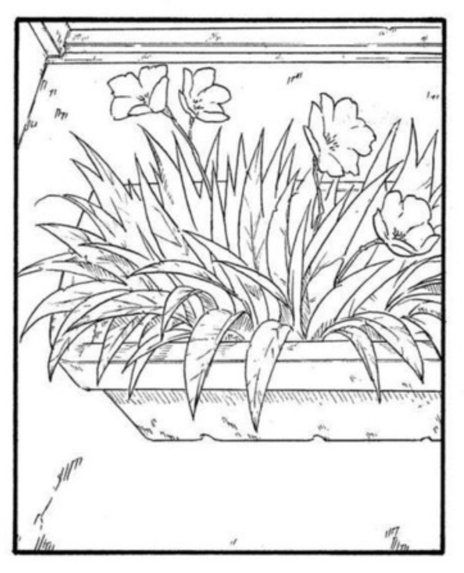

WHAT ?!

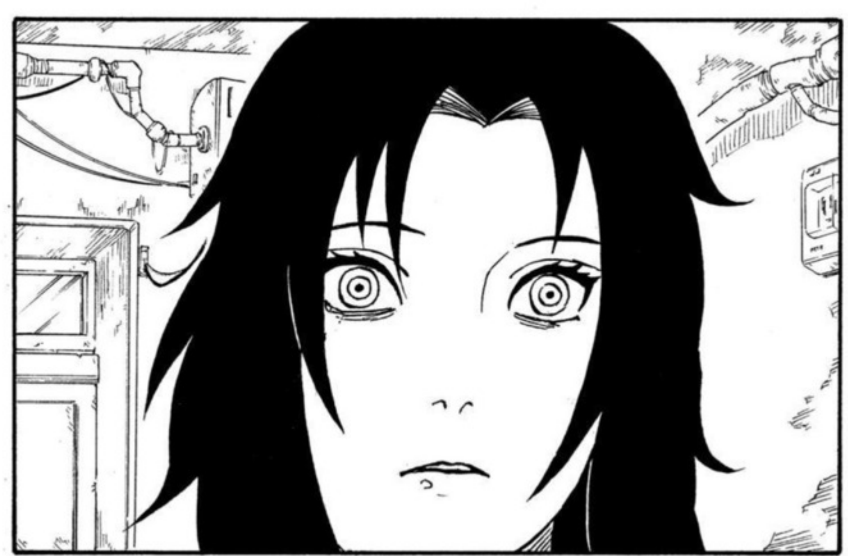

WHAT IS IT, YAMATO ?


...

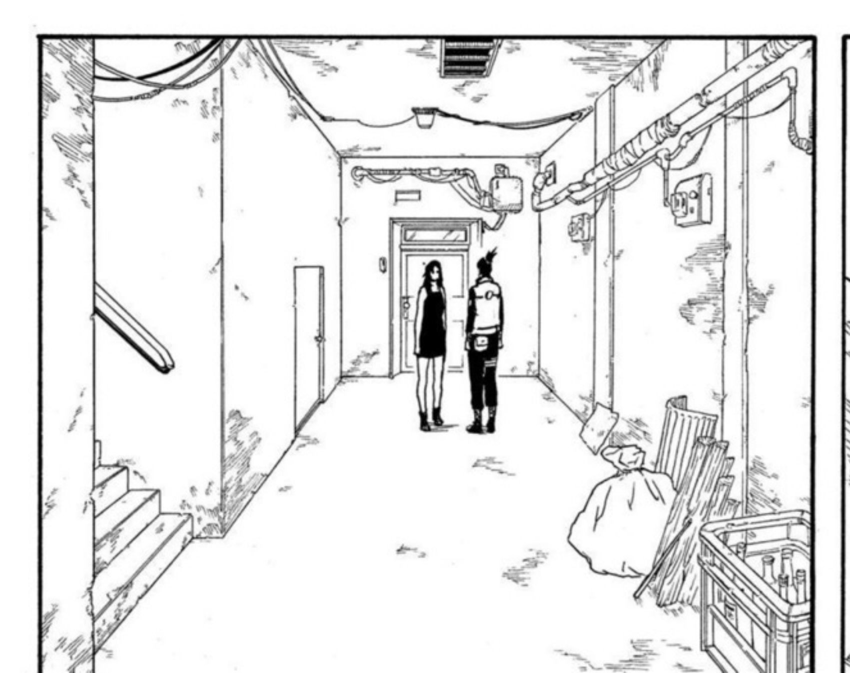
ASUMA SARUTOBI ...

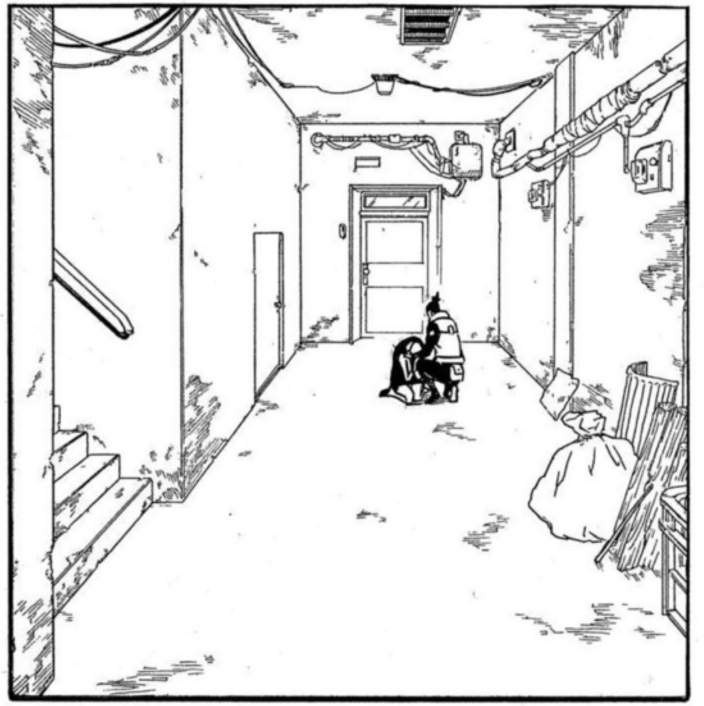
...HAS BEEN KILLED...

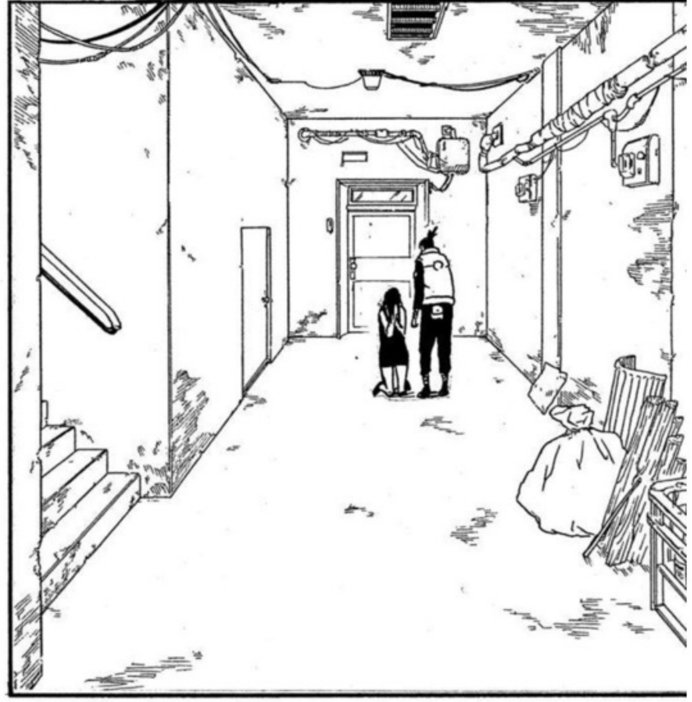


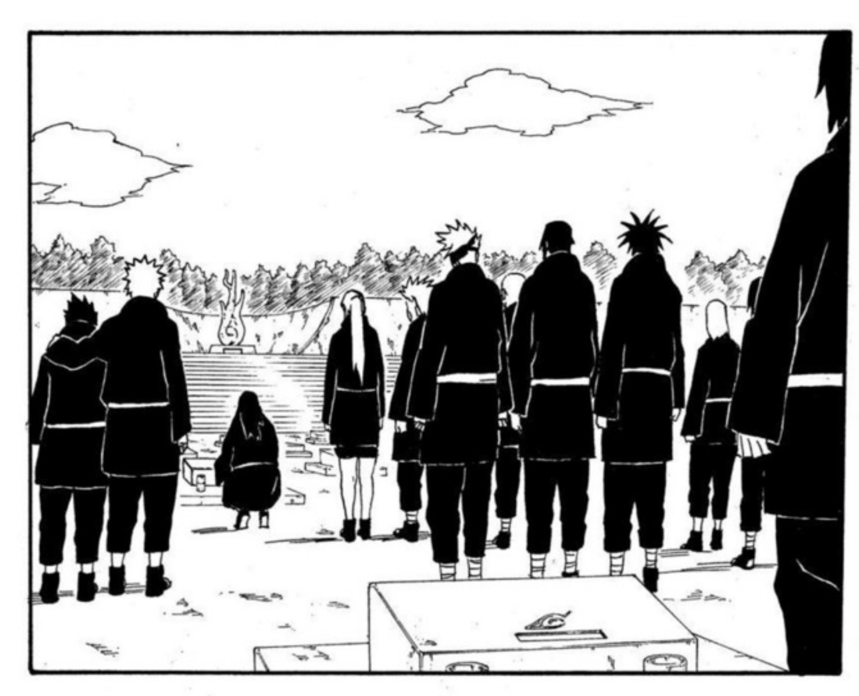


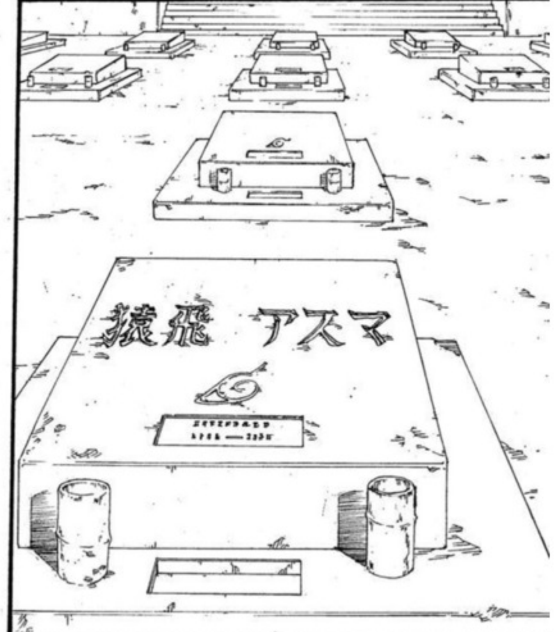




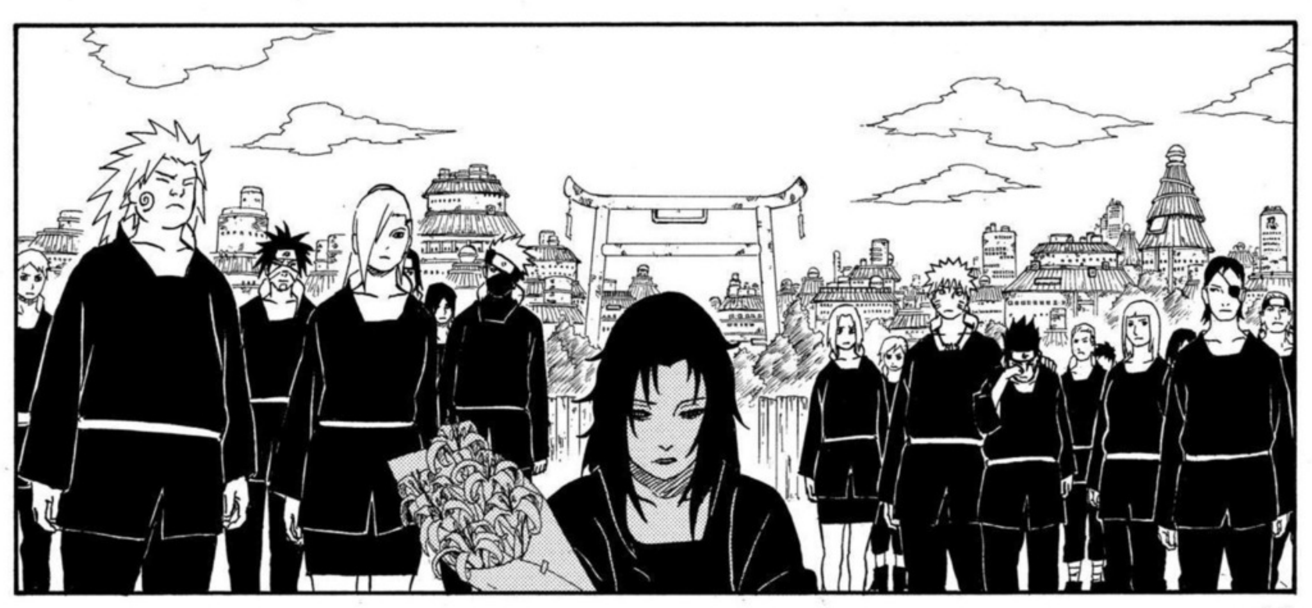




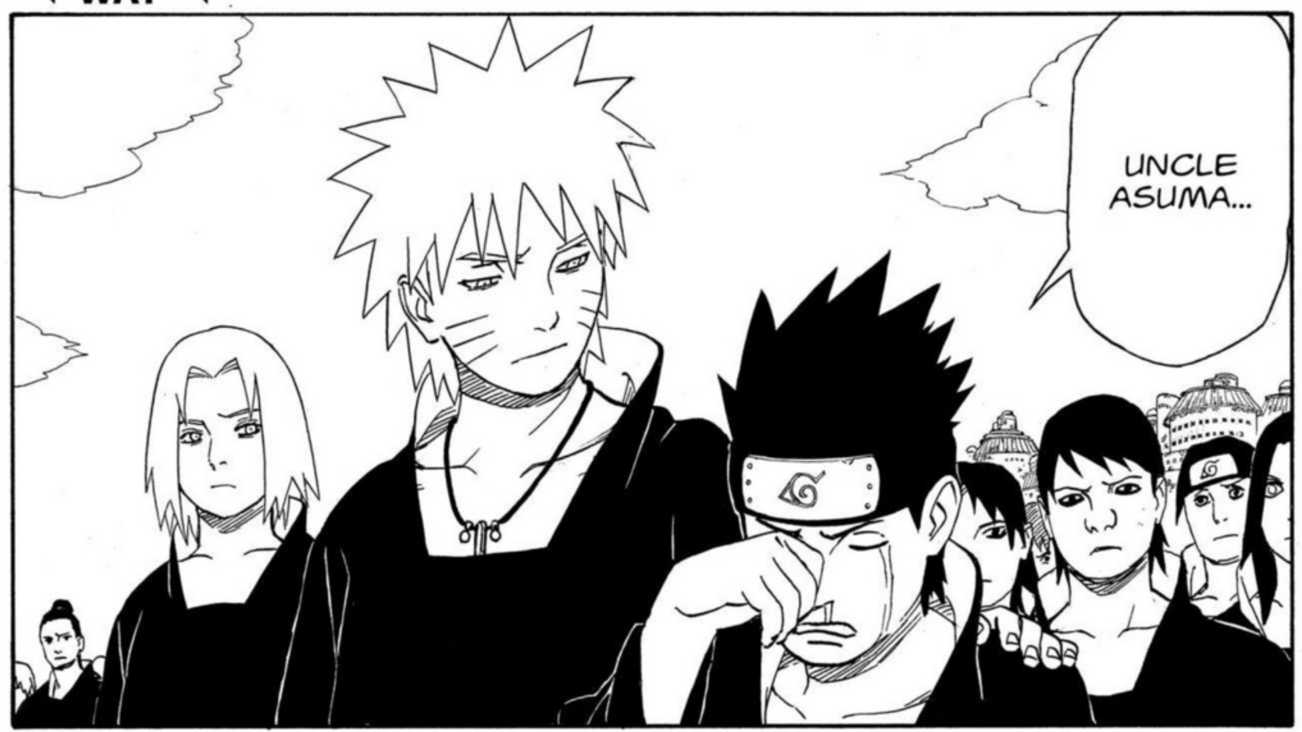




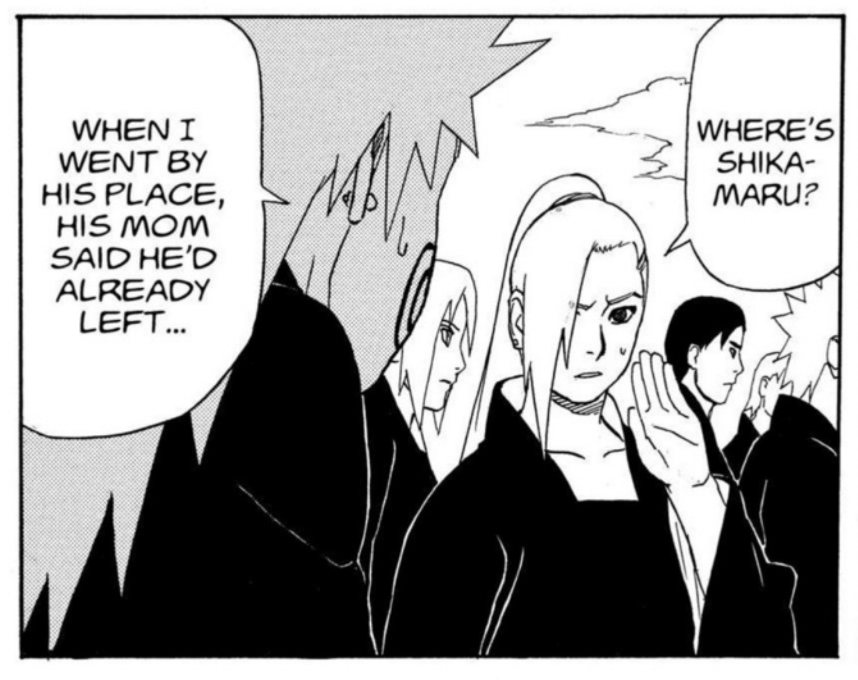
(ASUMA SARUTOBI)

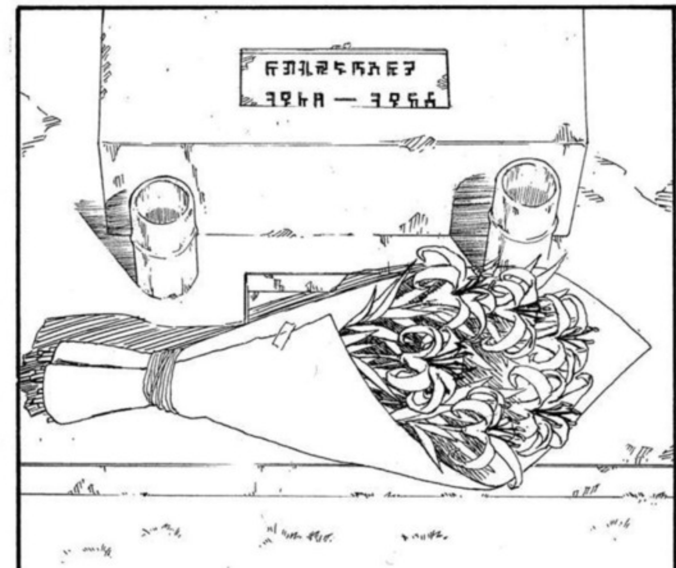


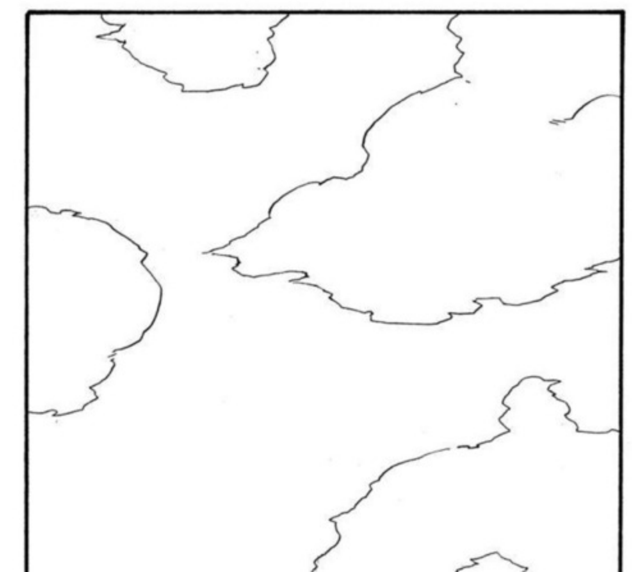

READ THIS WAY

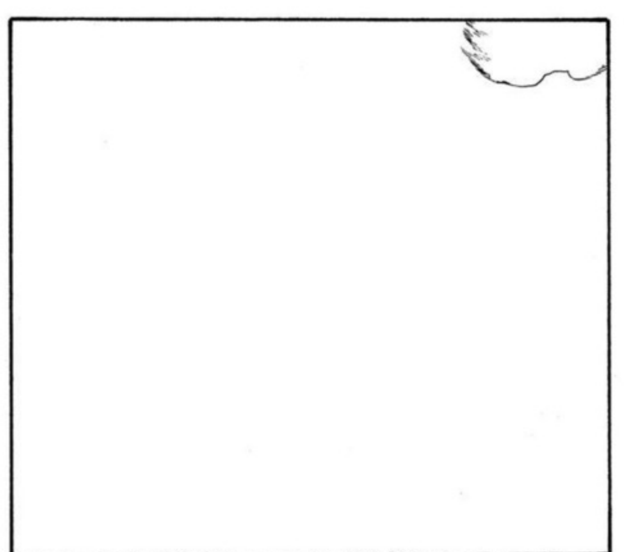

UNCLE ASUMA...


ASUMA...


WHERE'S SHIKA-MARU?
WHEN I WENT BY HIS PLACE, HIS MOM SAID HE'D ALREADY LEFT...

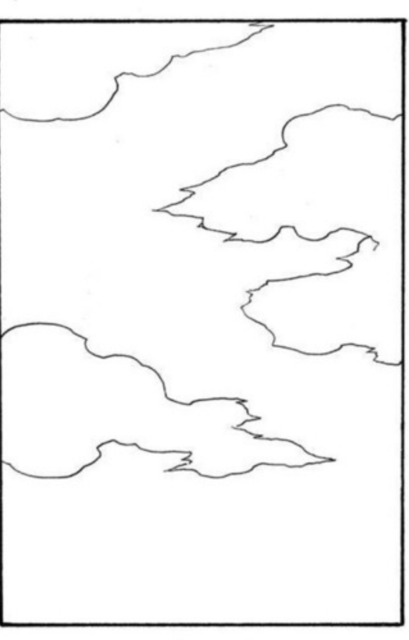










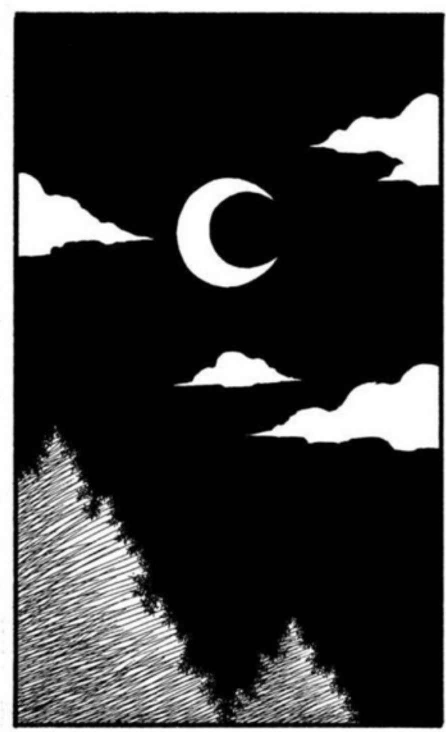


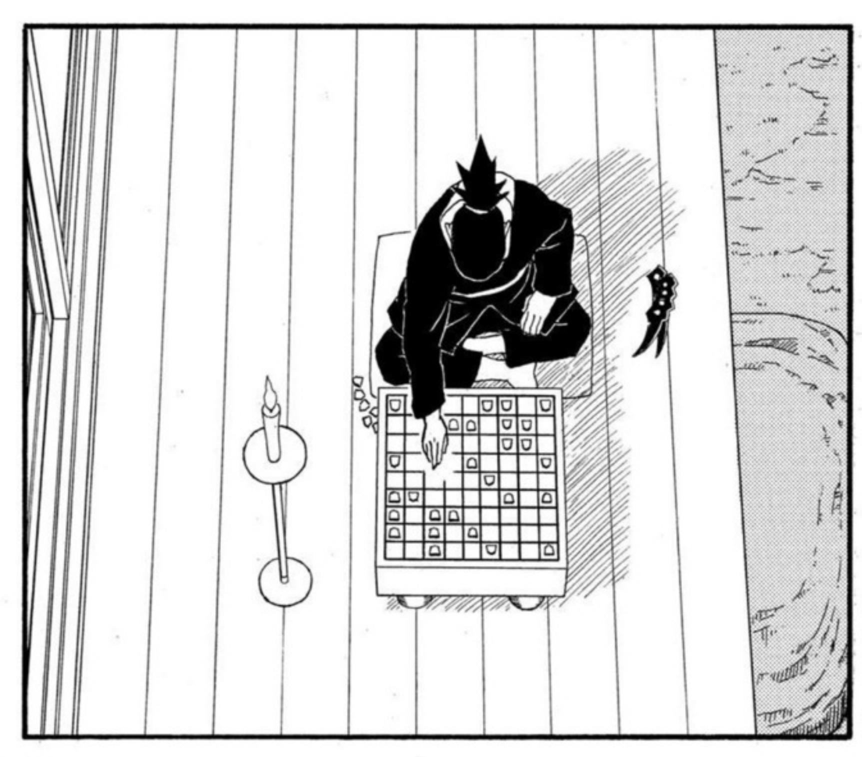

CLOP...


READ THIS WAY

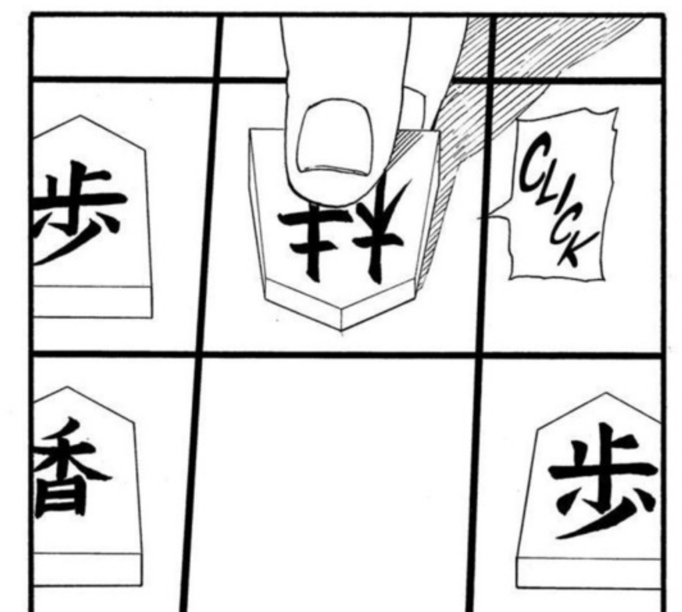

CLICK



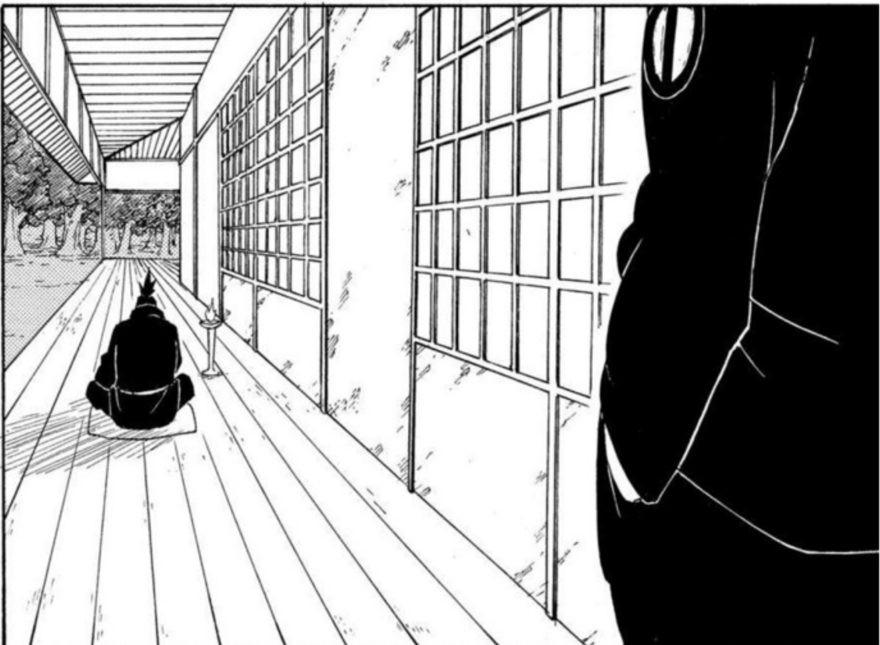


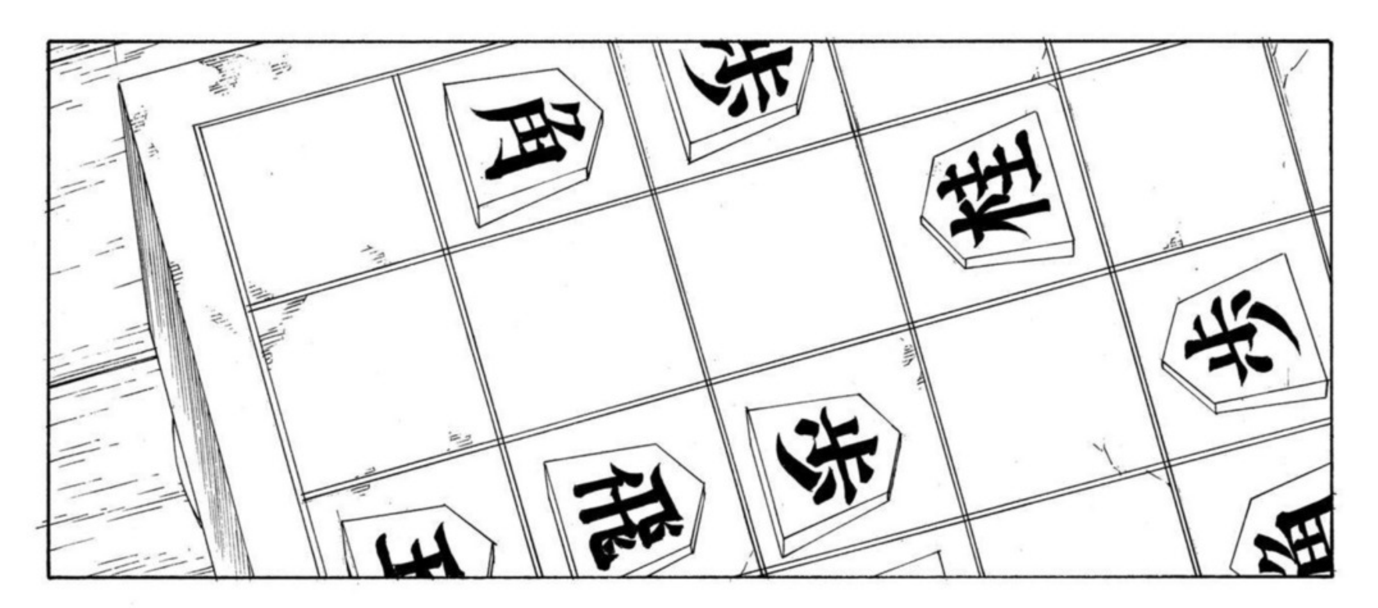


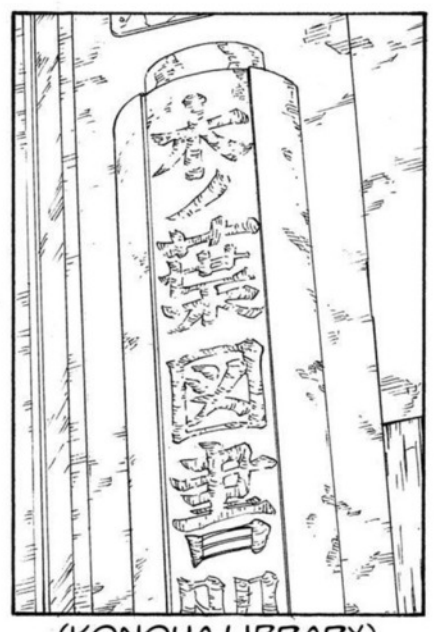



CLICK
歩
香
歩

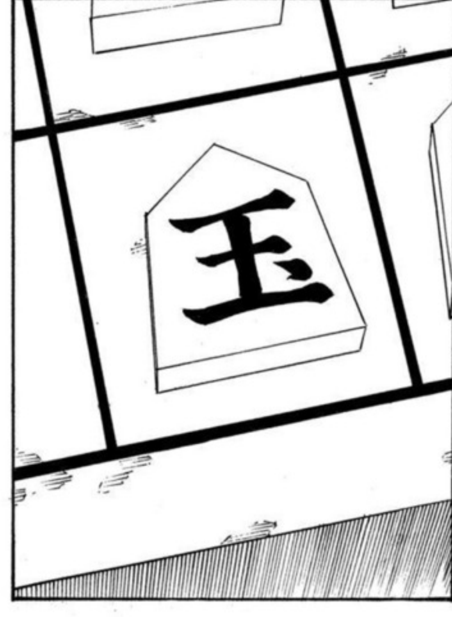








(KONOHA LIBRARY)



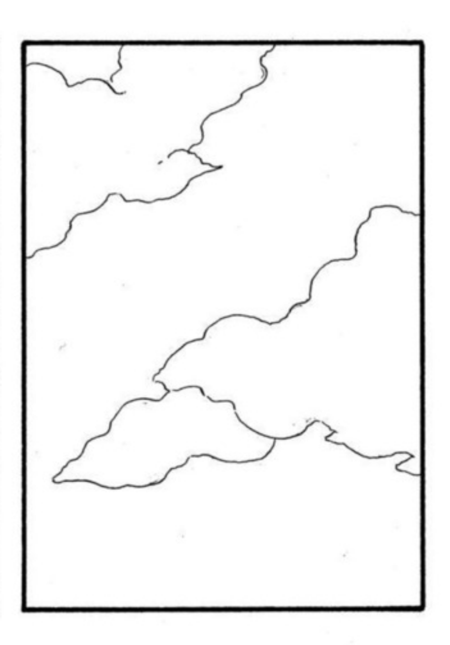


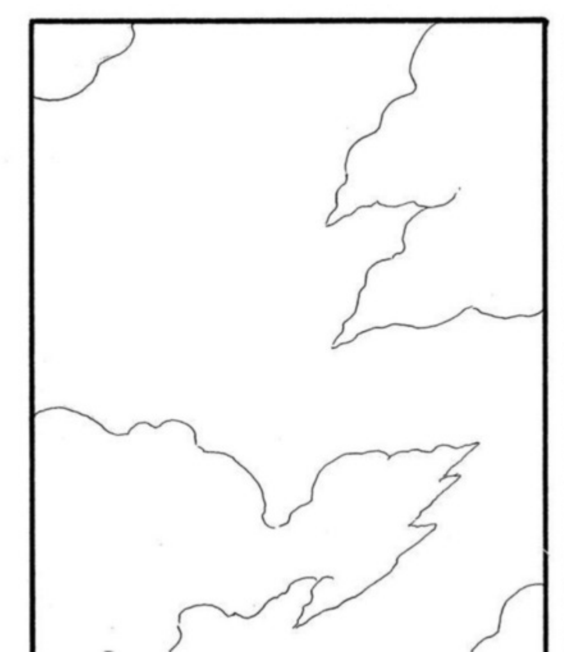

READ
THIS
WAY




HAH!
CHAK

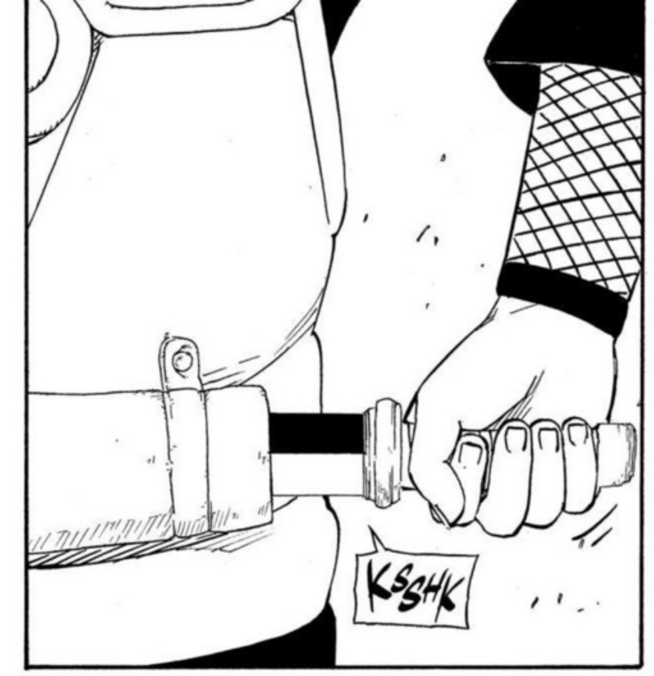


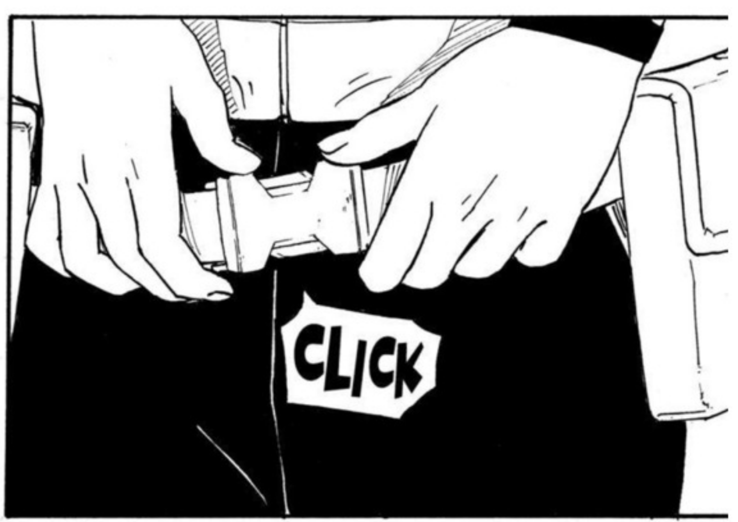




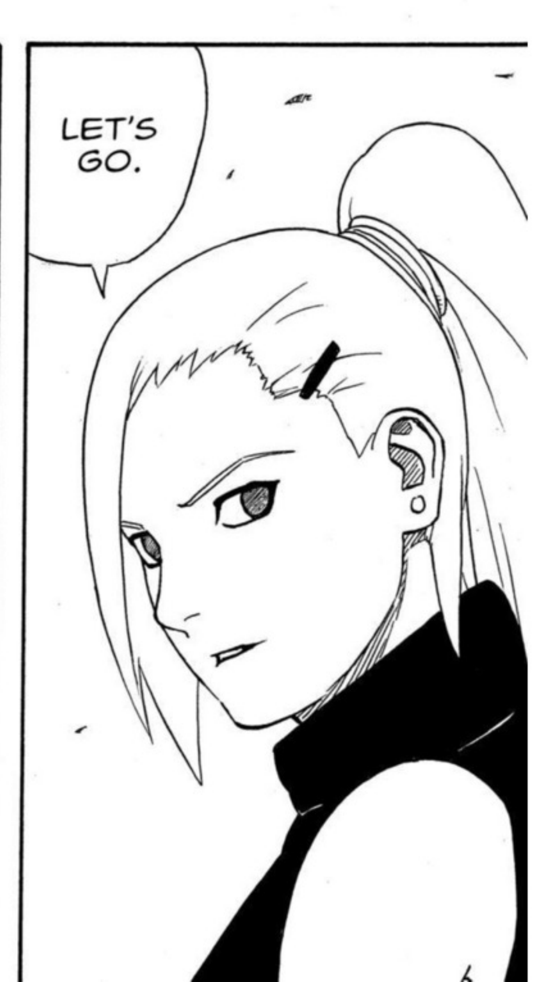



SNAP


KSSHK

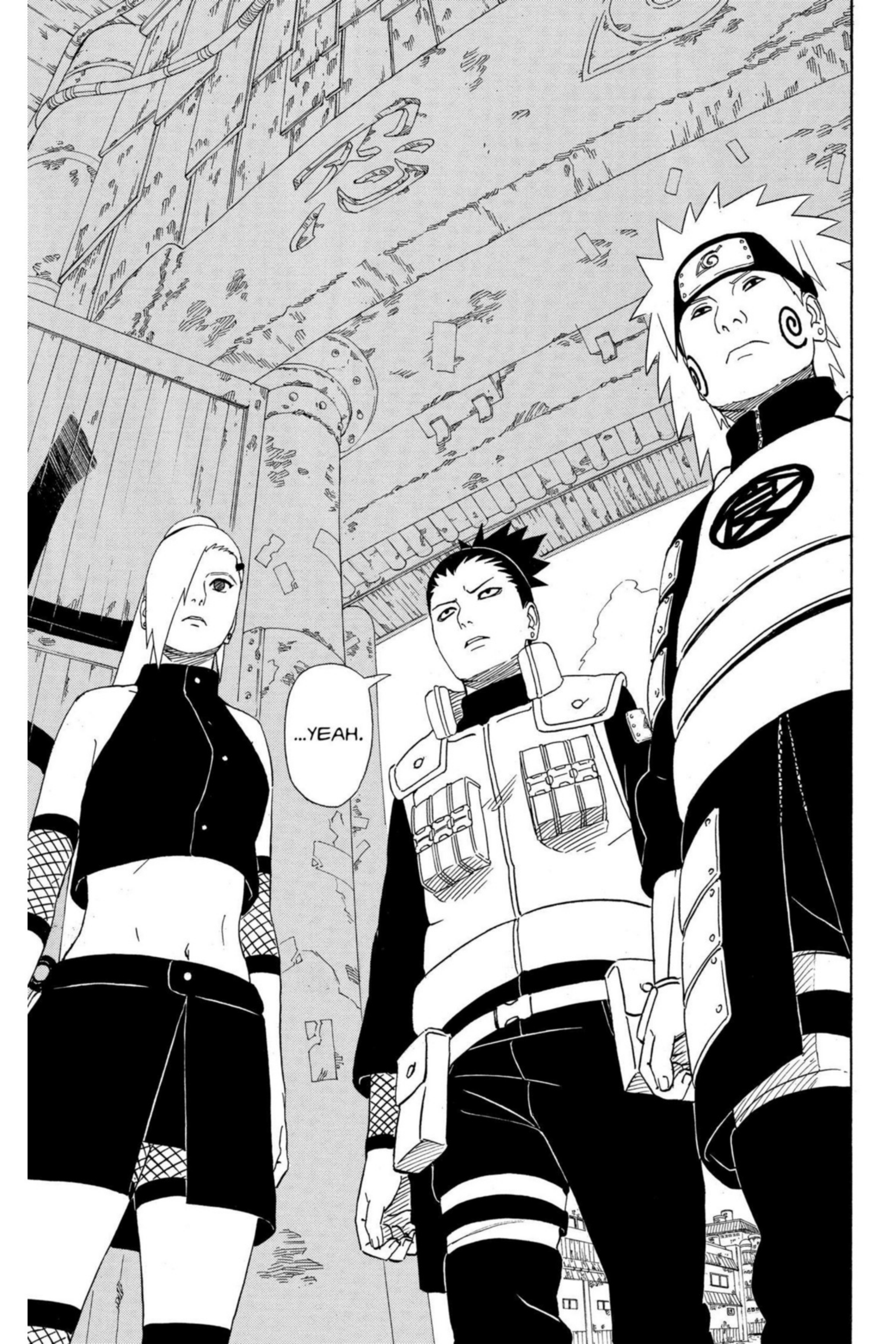

CLICK

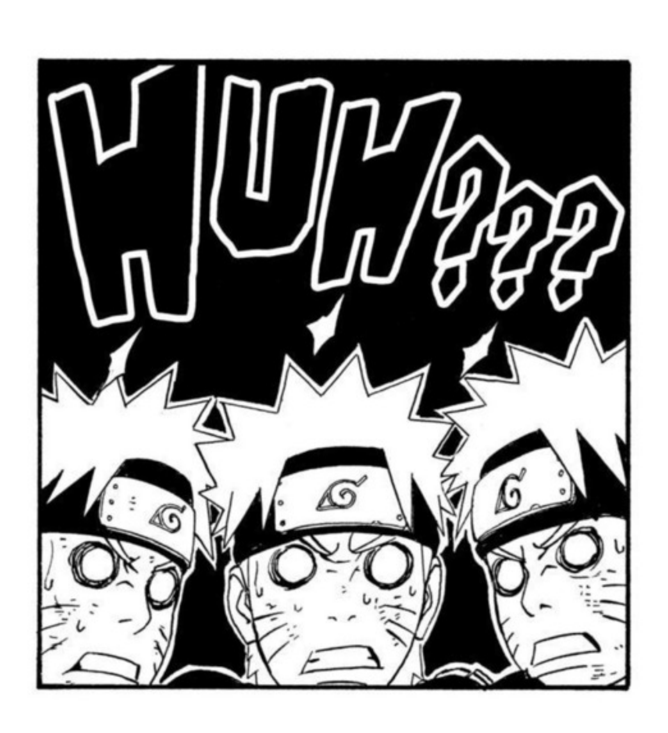

FOOSH


LET'S GO.

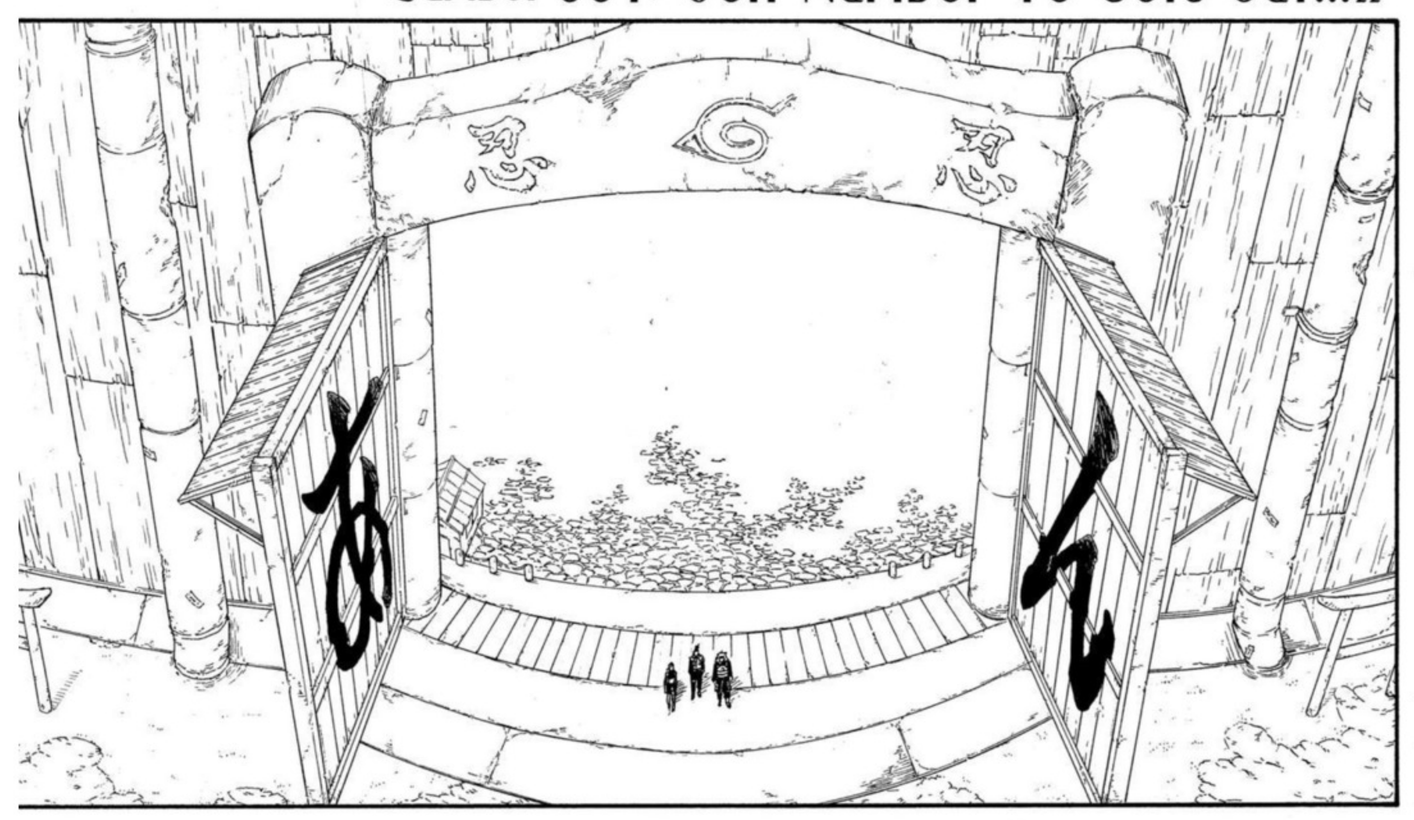

READY, SHIKA-MARU?


...
KRUNCH

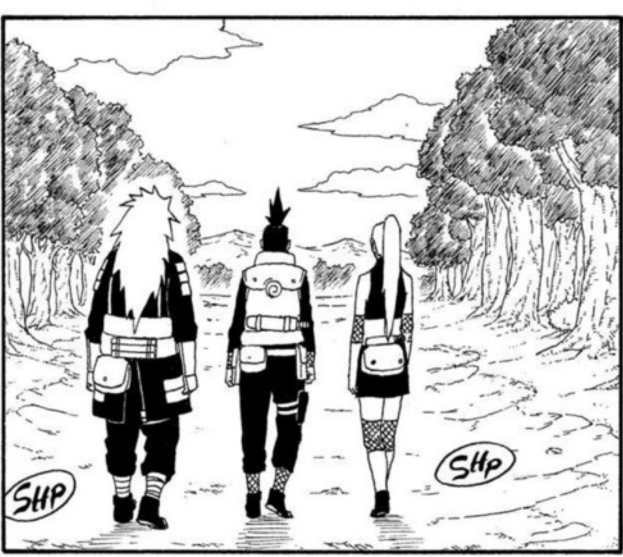

...YEAH.


HUH???

Number 331: Cell Number 10 Sets Out...!!









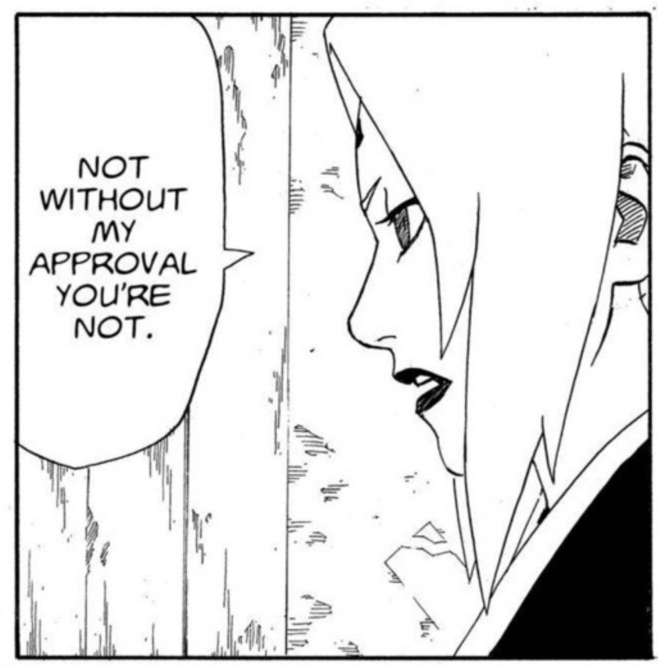
Number 331: Cell Number 10 Sets Out...!!

WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING?






READ THIS WAY


NOT WITHOUT MY APPROVAL YOU'RE NOT.


THE ENEMY SAID THEY WOULD RETURN.
I WILL DECIDE WHEN IT'S TIME TO SEND A PROPER SQUAD.


...


SHIKA-MARU...
...YOU WILL JOIN A TROOP OF MY CHOOSING...
...THAT WILL LEAVE ONLY AFTER DEVISING A SOLID PLAN OF ATTACK.




JUST SEND THEM AS REINFORCE-MENTS AFTER US.
INO, CHOJI AND I HAVE ALREADY WORKED OUT OUR OWN STRATEGIES.

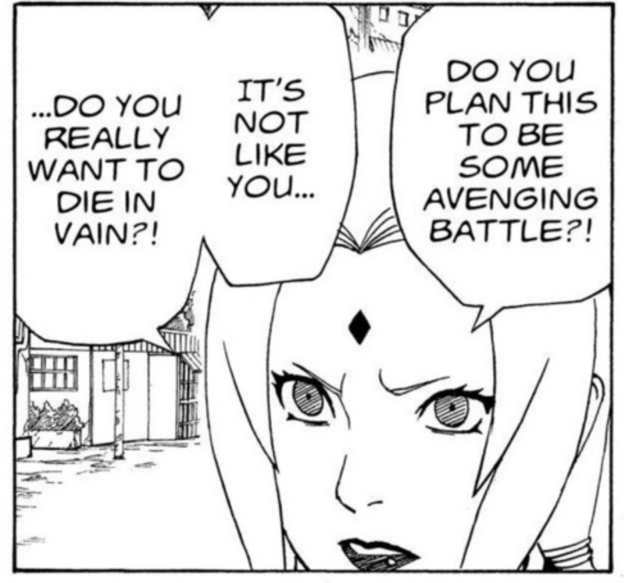

ENOUGH!!


...

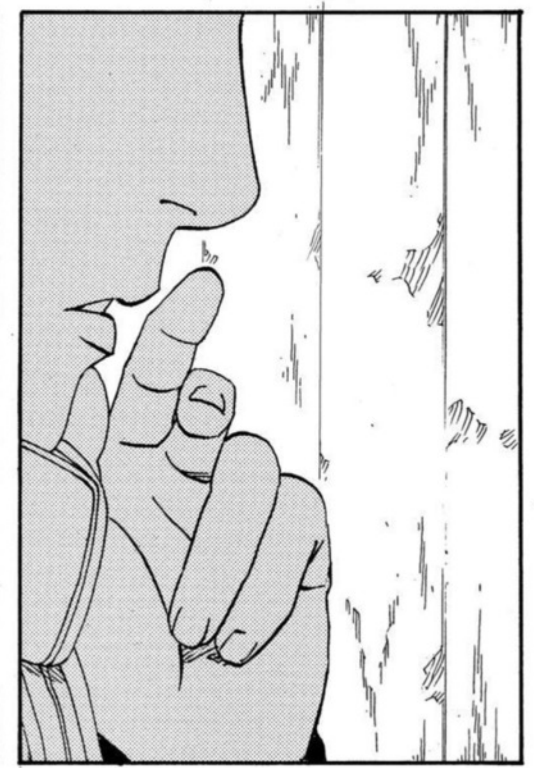

ASUMA'S DEAD.
IT'S JUST THE THREE OF YOU NOW...


THE BASIC UNIT IS A FOUR-MAN CELL!
WITHOUT A SQUAD LEADER...


ASUMA IS STILL WITH US.


DO YOU PLAN THIS TO BE SOME AVENGING BATTLE?!
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU...
...DO YOU REALLY WANT TO DIE IN VAIN?!


READ
THIS
WAY




WE'RE NOT STUPID.
WE HAVE NO INTENTION OF RUNNING RIGHT TO OUR DEATHS.
SHWOO


...

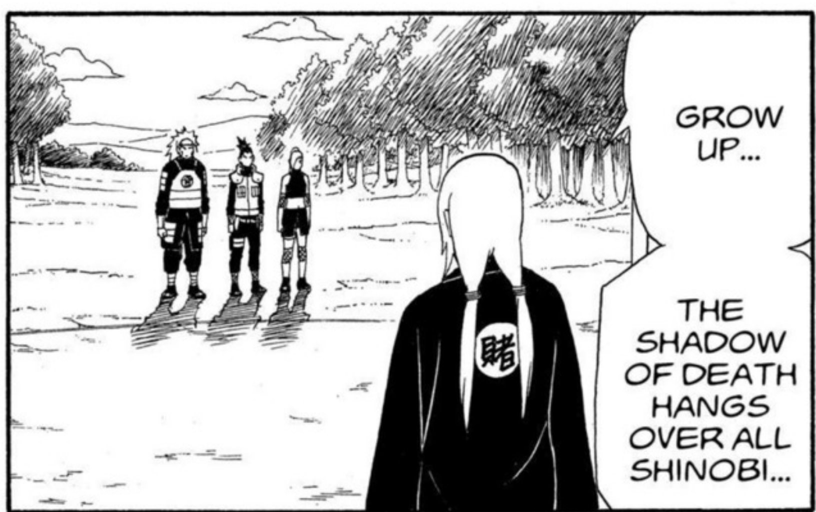

IT'S JUST...

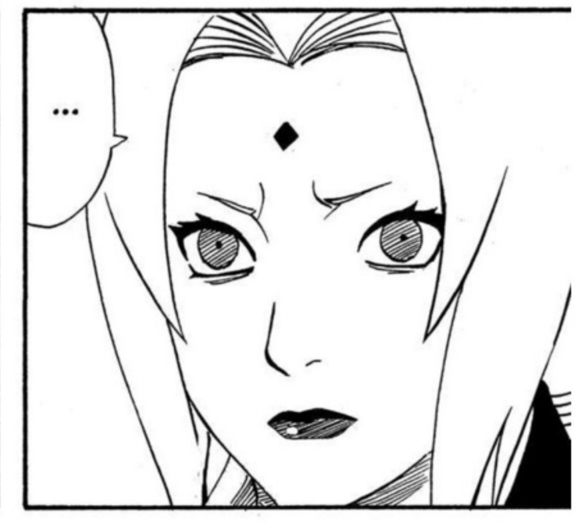

JUST...
...WHAT?


WE DON'T INTEND TO RUN AWAY...
...AND KEEP ON LIVING WITHOUT FULFILLING OUR DUTY...



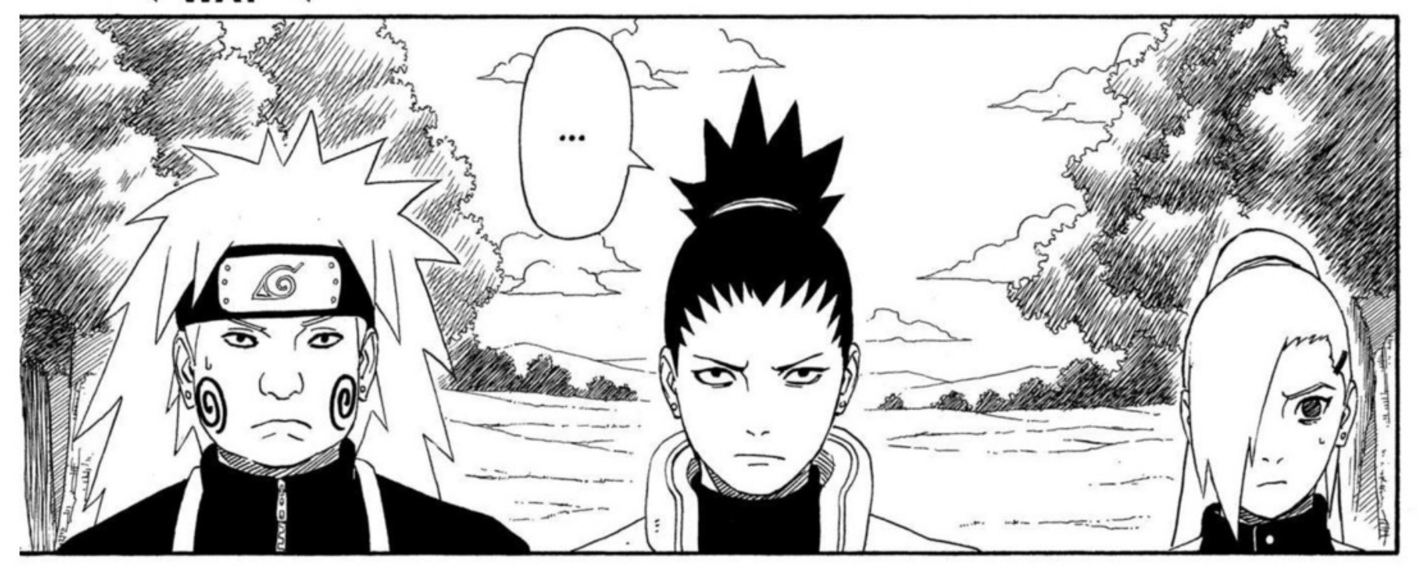
WE AREN'T GOING TO LIVE WITHOUT MEANING!

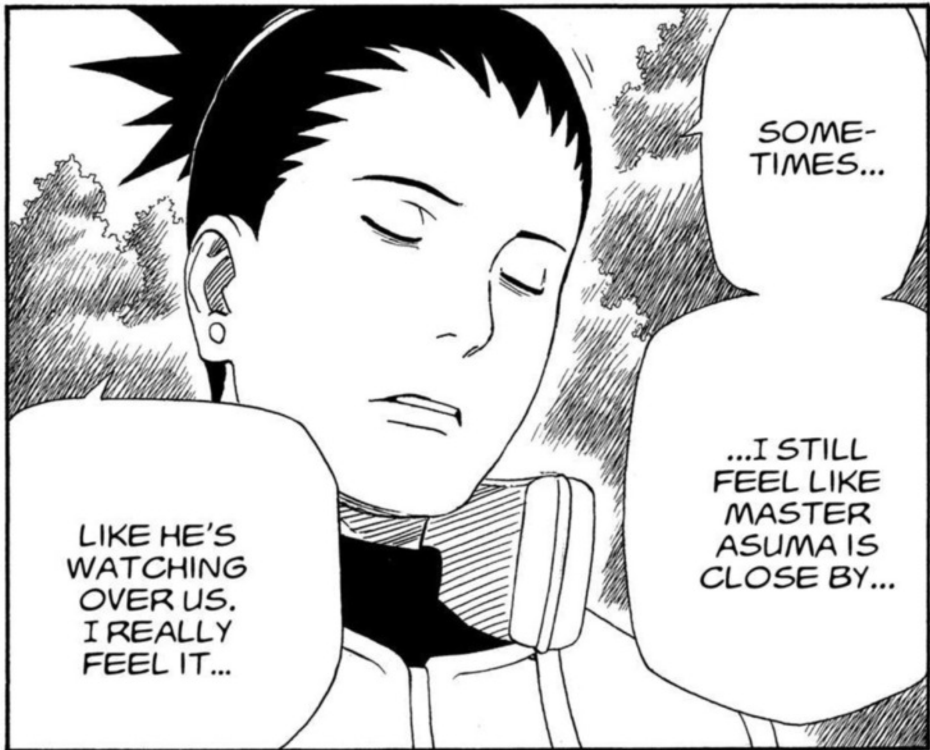


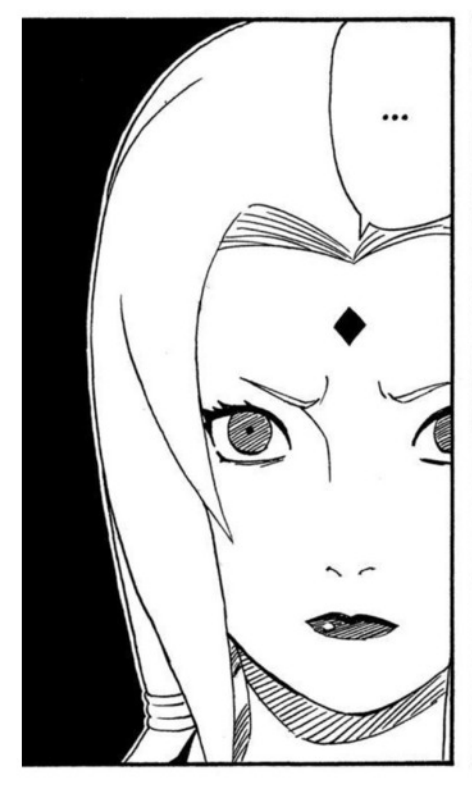




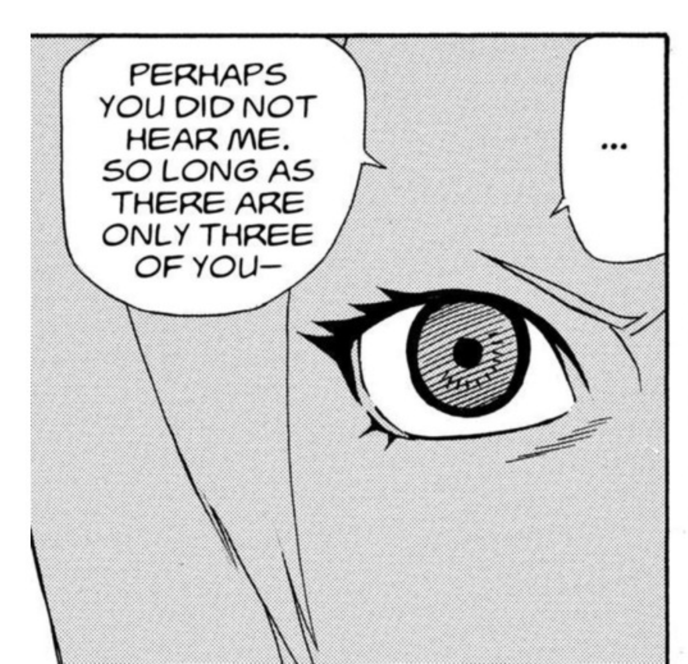

READ
THIS
WAY


...


SOME-TIMES...
...I STILL FEEL LIKE MASTER ASUMA IS CLOSE BY...
LIKE HE'S WATCHING OVER US. I REALLY FEEL IT...

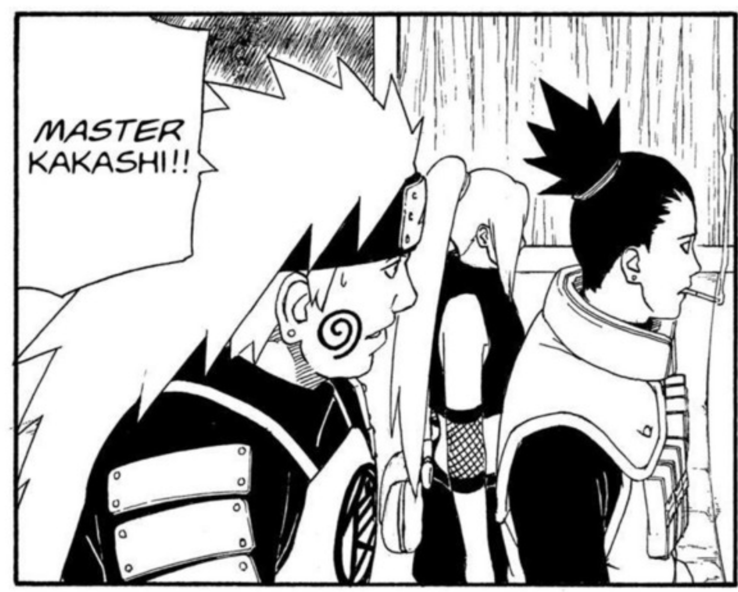

...

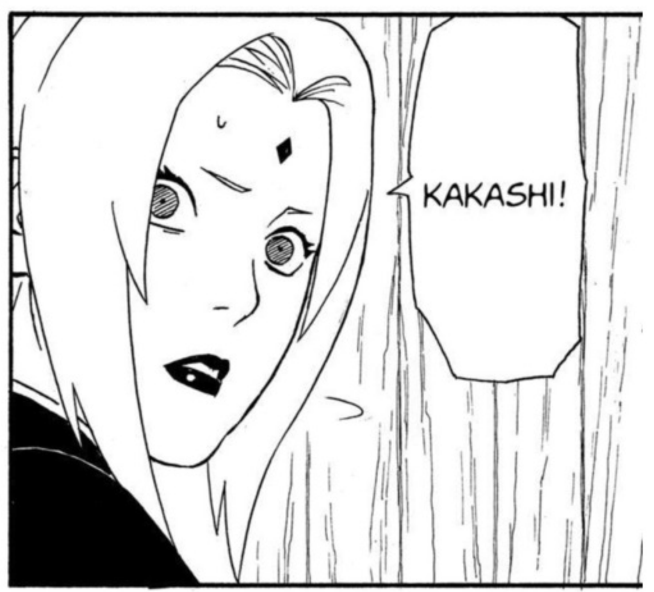

I WILL NOT REST...
...UNTIL THIS BATTLE IS RESOLVED!


...
PERHAPS YOU DID NOT HEAR ME. SO LONG AS THERE ARE ONLY THREE OF YOU–

BUT IF THERE ARE FOUR, THEN IT'S ALL RIGHT. EH, LADY TSUNADE?

!



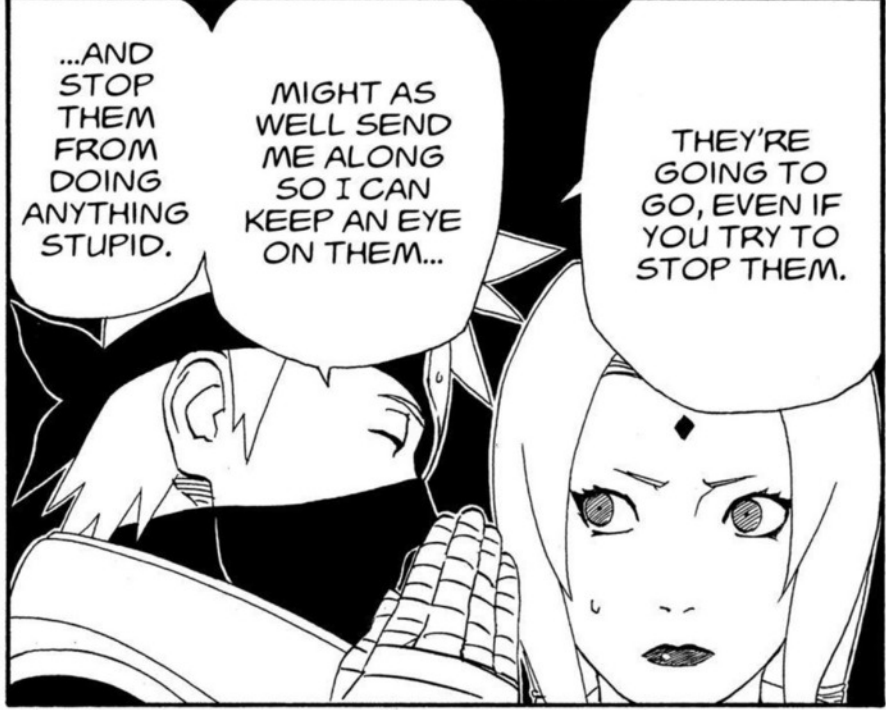


I'LL TAKE OVER AS CELL NUMBER 10'S LEADER AND GO WITH THEM.

FAIR ENOUGH?

SHUP

YOU...!














OH ALL RIGHT, AS YOU WISH!

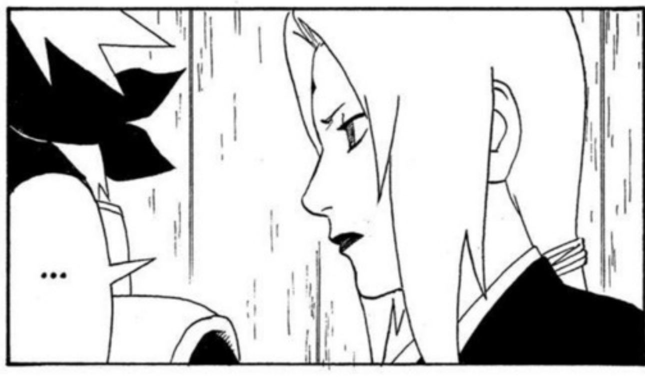

MY THANKS!


...
YES!

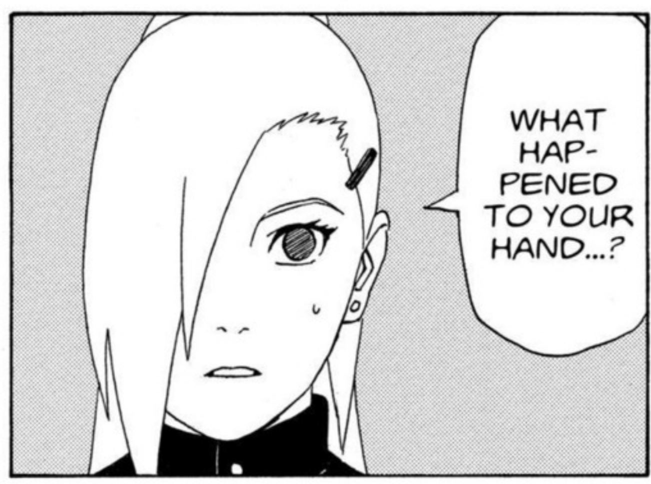

MASTER KAKASHI...
...WHAT ABOUT NARUTO?



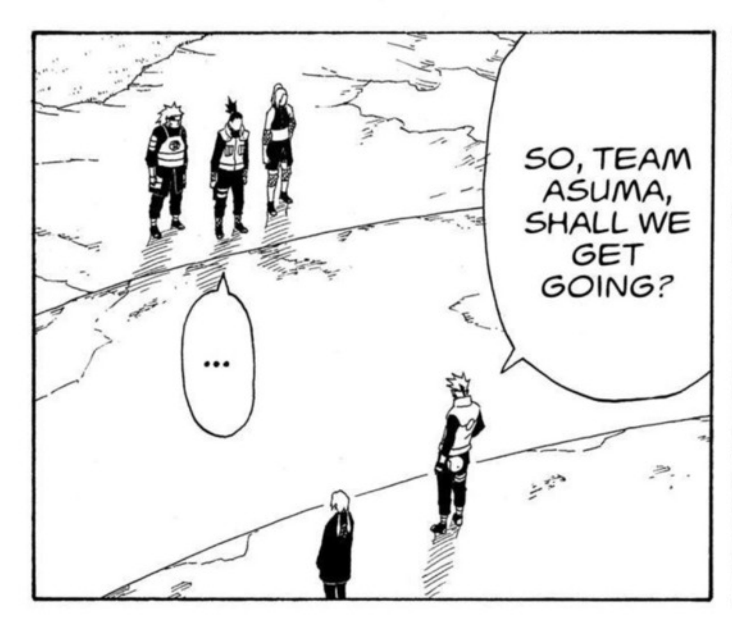

READ THIS WAY


...


OH, NOTHING... HE DOESN'T NEED ME AROUND ANYMORE.
PLUS, HE'S GOT ANOTHER SQUAD LEADER WITH HIM NOW, SO...

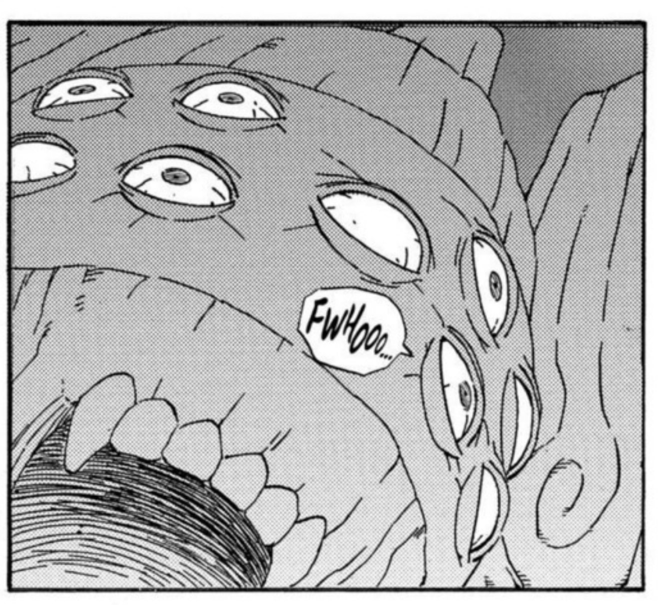

WHAT HAP-PENED TO YOUR HAND...?

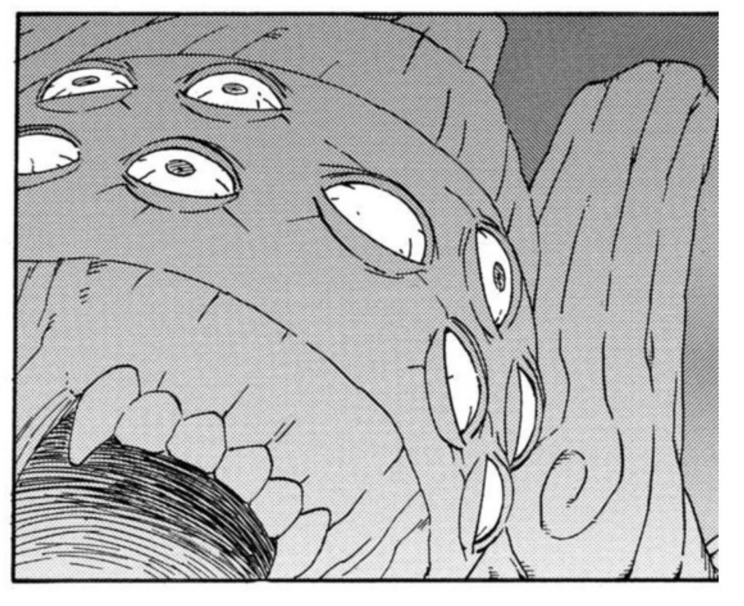

HUMPH ...
THAT NARUTO...

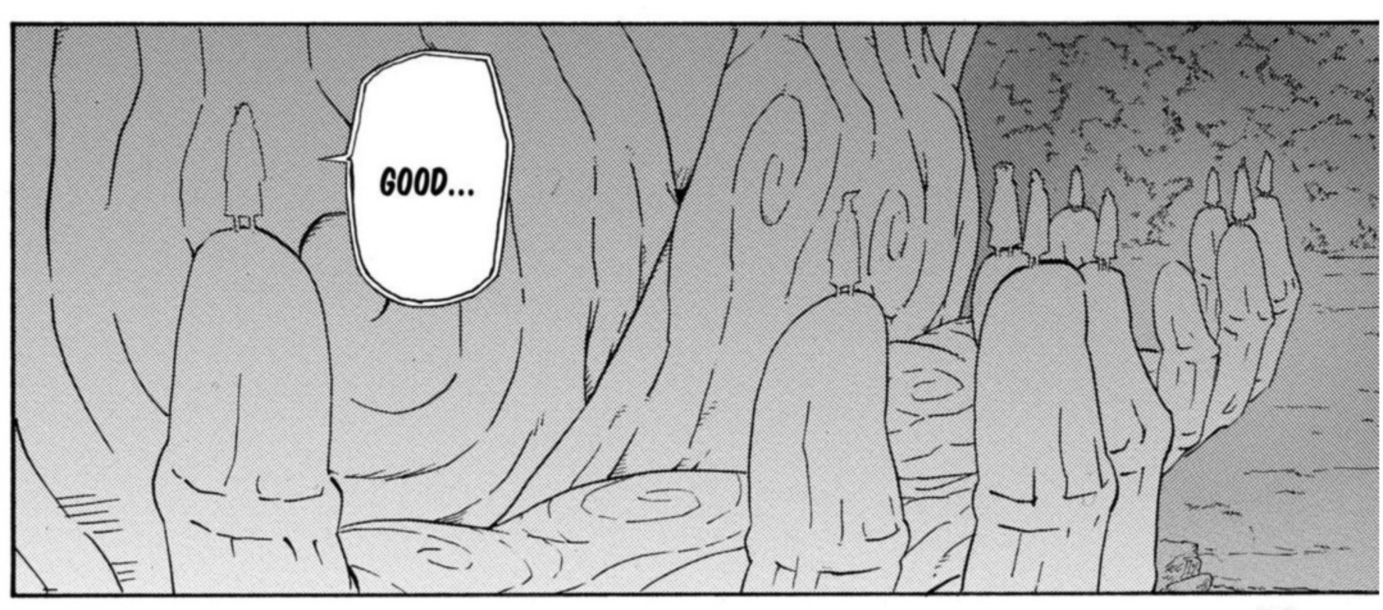

SO, TEAM ASUMA, SHALL WE GET GOING?
...


WE OWE YOU, MASTER KAKASHI! BIG TIME!

SLURP...



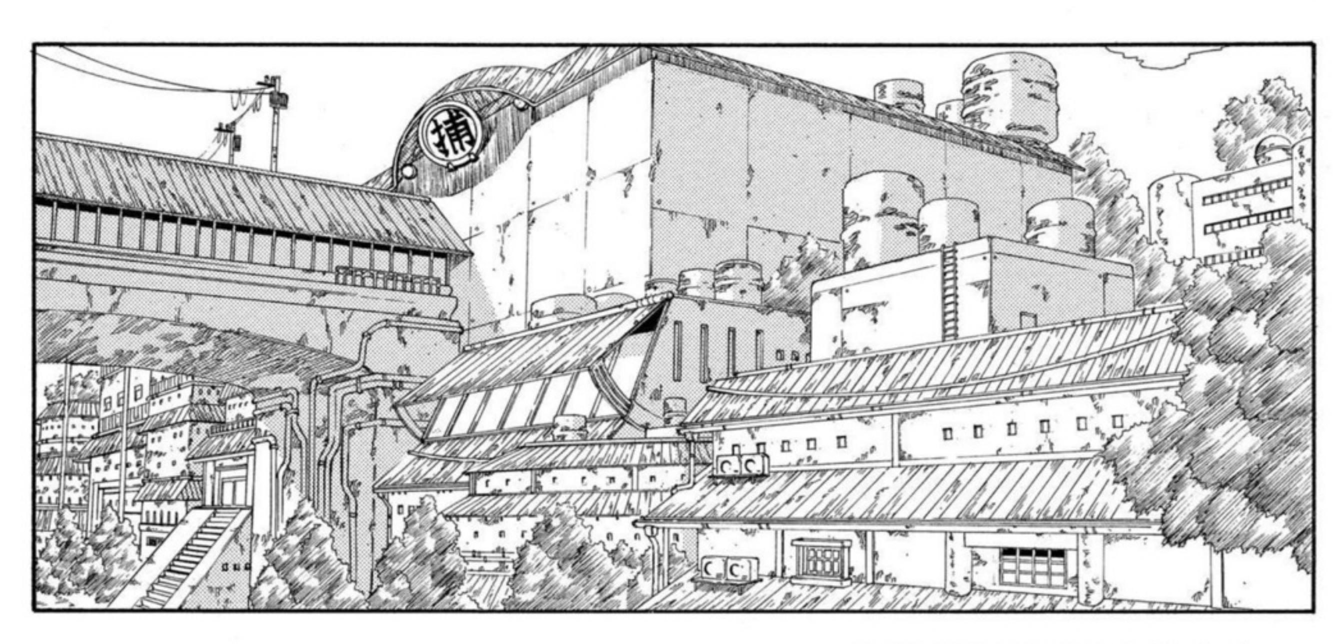






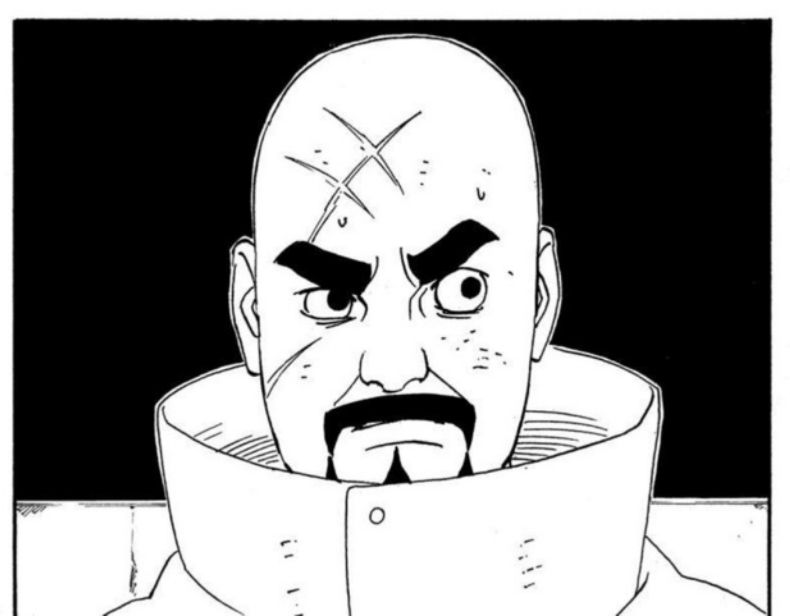




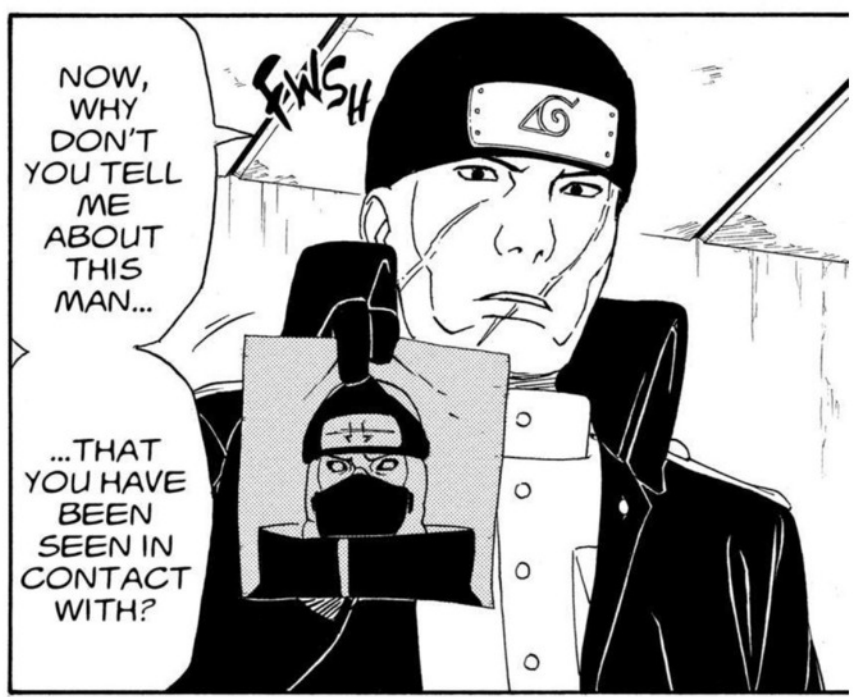


(INTERROGATION ROOM)





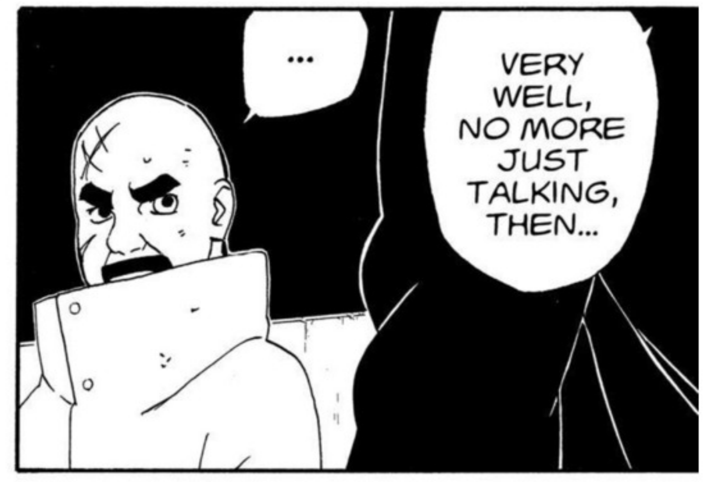
WE ARE HEREBY COMMENCING YOUR ARRAIGNMENT.







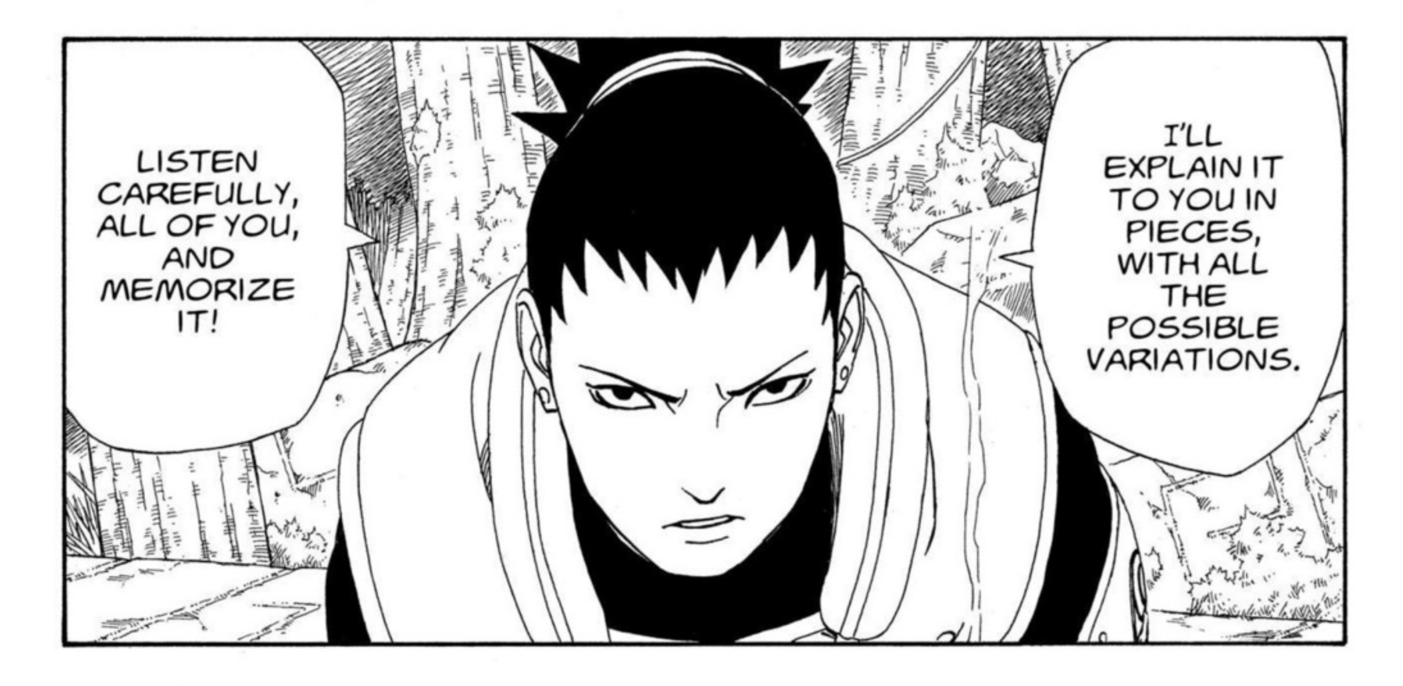


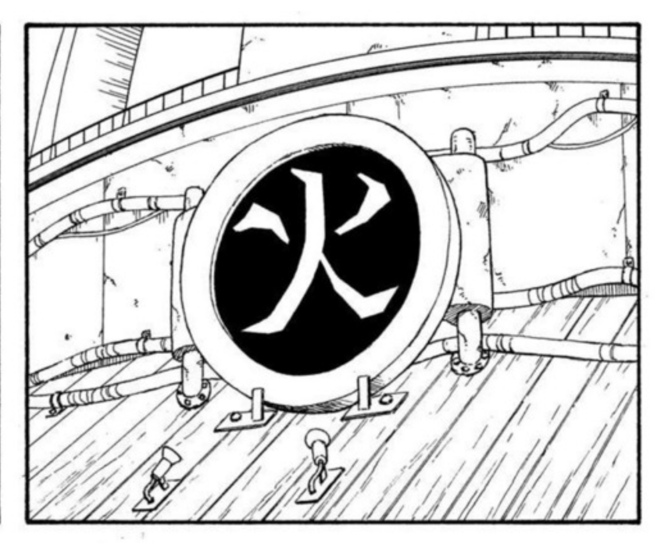


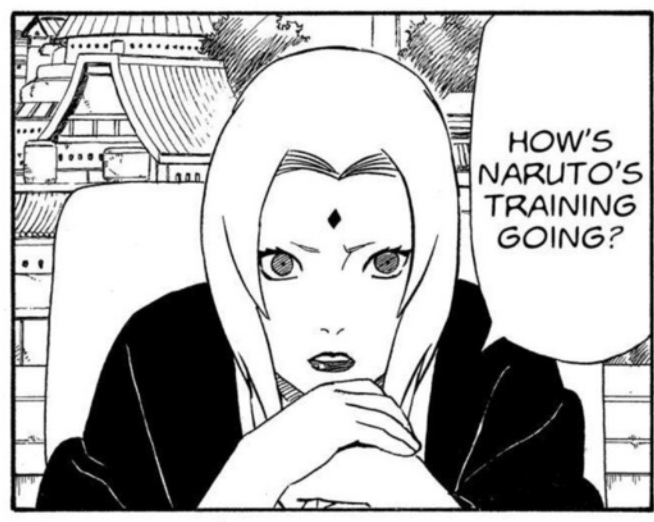

READ THIS WAY


OK, SHIKAMARU... LET'S HEAR THAT PLAN OF YOURS.

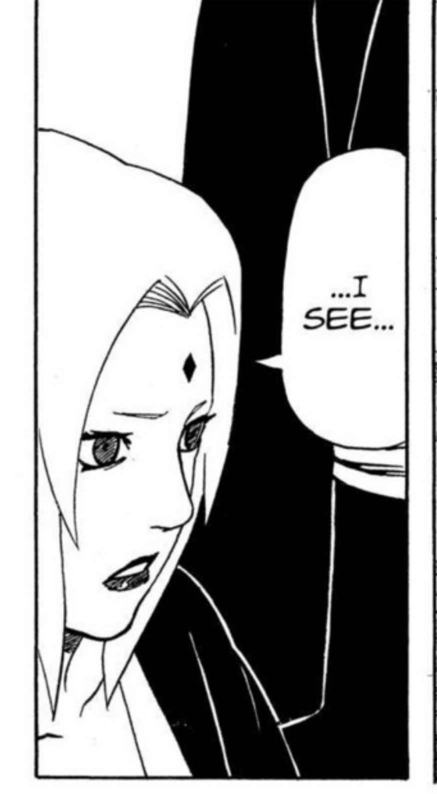

I'D LIKE TO TWEAK IT NOW THAT YOU'RE WITH US, MASTER KAKASHI.
NO PROBLEM. GO ON.

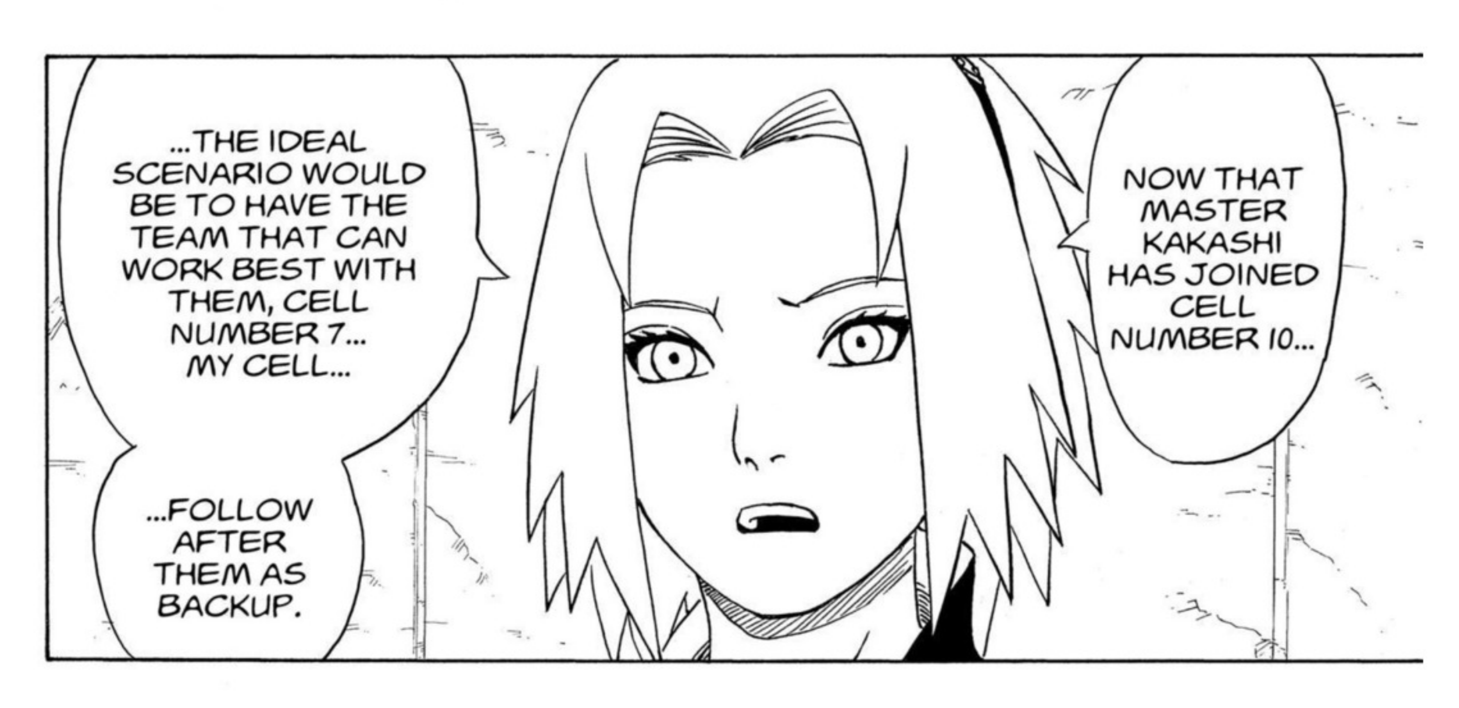

I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU IN PIECES, WITH ALL THE POSSIBLE VARIATIONS.
LISTEN CAREFULLY, ALL OF YOU, AND MEMORIZE IT!




HOW'S NARUTO'S TRAINING GOING?


ACCORDING TO MASTER KAKASHI, HE SEEMS TO HAVE FINALLY GRASPED THE PRINCIPLES...
...AND WILL ONLY REQUIRE A LITTLE MORE TIME TO PERFECT IT...


...I SEE...


NOW THAT MASTER KAKASHI HAS JOINED CELL NUMBER 10...
...THE IDEAL SCENARIO WOULD BE TO HAVE THE TEAM THAT CAN WORK BEST WITH THEM, CELL NUMBER 7... MY CELL...
...FOLLOW AFTER THEM AS BACKUP.

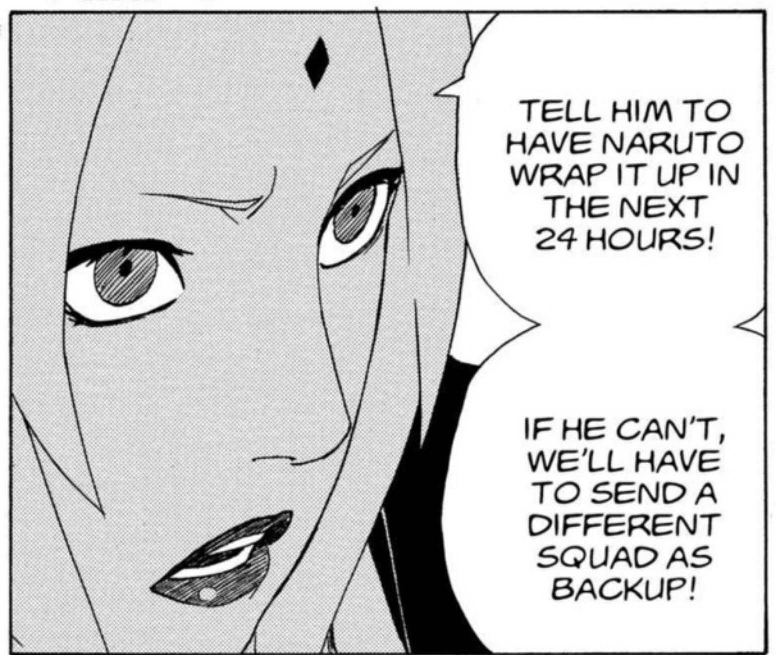

...SHARP, SAKURA...
...AS ALWAYS.


HOWEVER, WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY WHEN NARUTO WILL PERFECT HIS NEW JUTSU...
...SO PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEND A DIFFERENT SQUAD...?

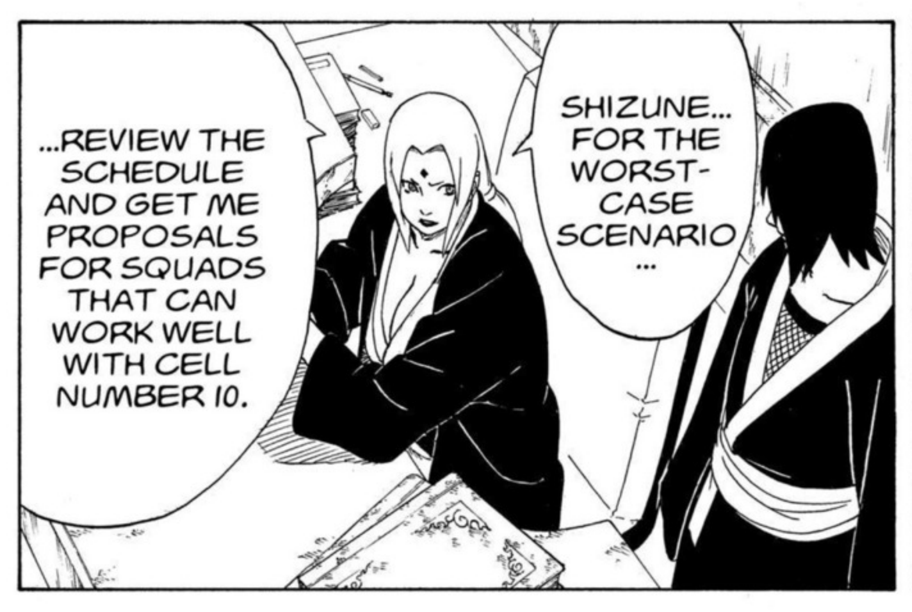

...


READ
THIS
WAY

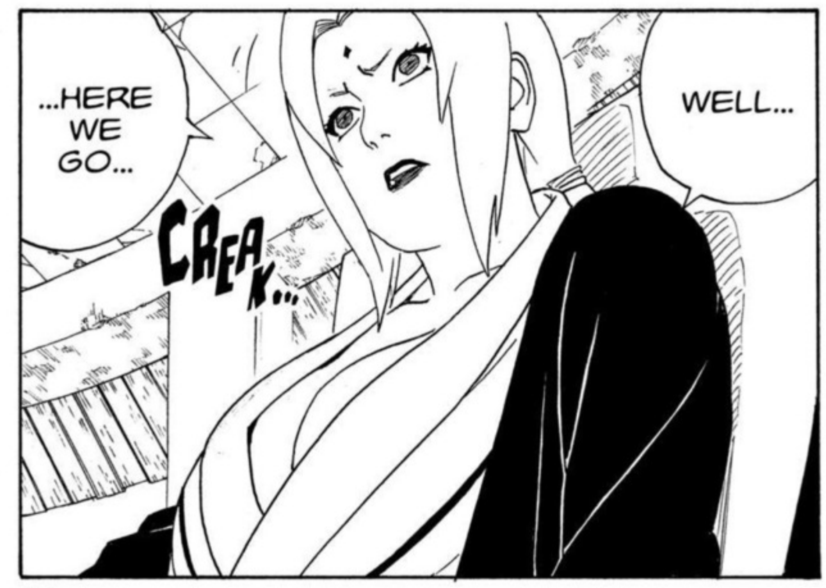

SAKURA, PASS THIS ON TO YAMATO.
!


TELL HIM TO HAVE NARUTO WRAP IT UP IN THE NEXT 24 HOURS!
IF HE CAN'T, WE'LL HAVE TO SEND A DIFFERENT SQUAD AS BACKUP!

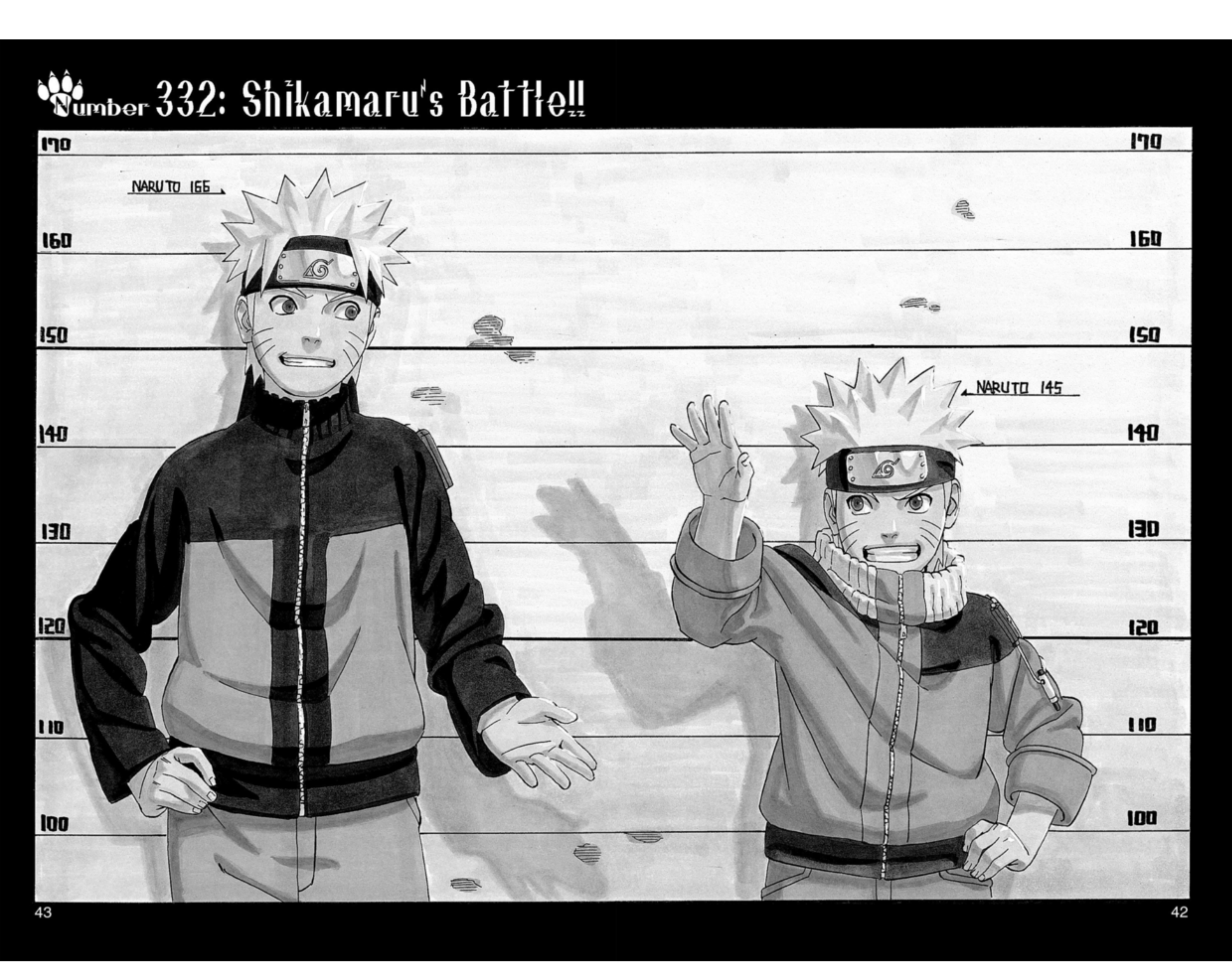

YES, MA'AM!


SHIZUNE... FOR THE WORST-CASE SCENARIO...
...REVIEW THE SCHEDULE AND GET ME PROPOSALS FOR SQUADS THAT CAN WORK WELL WITH CELL NUMBER 10.

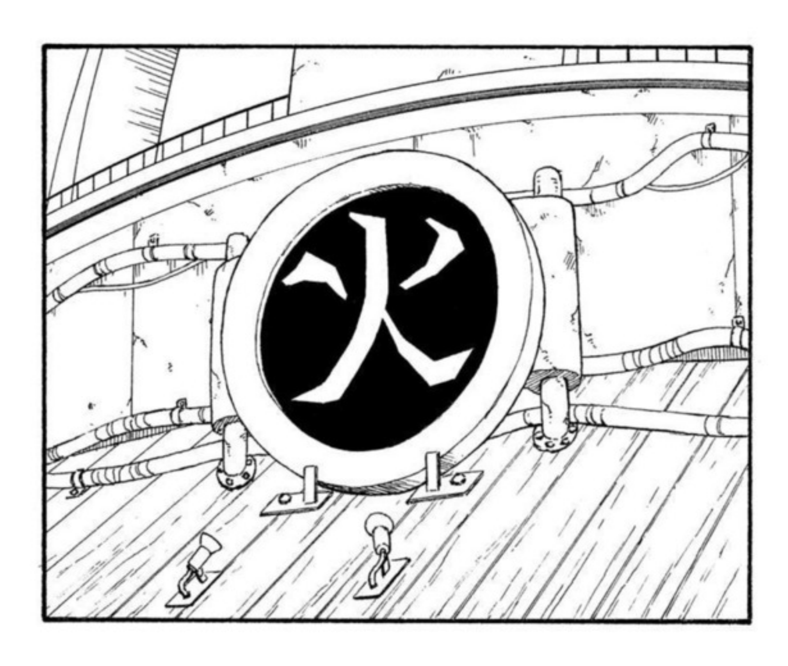

UNDER-STOOD.


WELL...
CREAK...
...HERE WE GO...

Number 332: Shikamaru's Battle!!




NARUTO


火


SO... PLEASE USE THIS WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE.
HOLD ONTO IT UNTIL THEN.

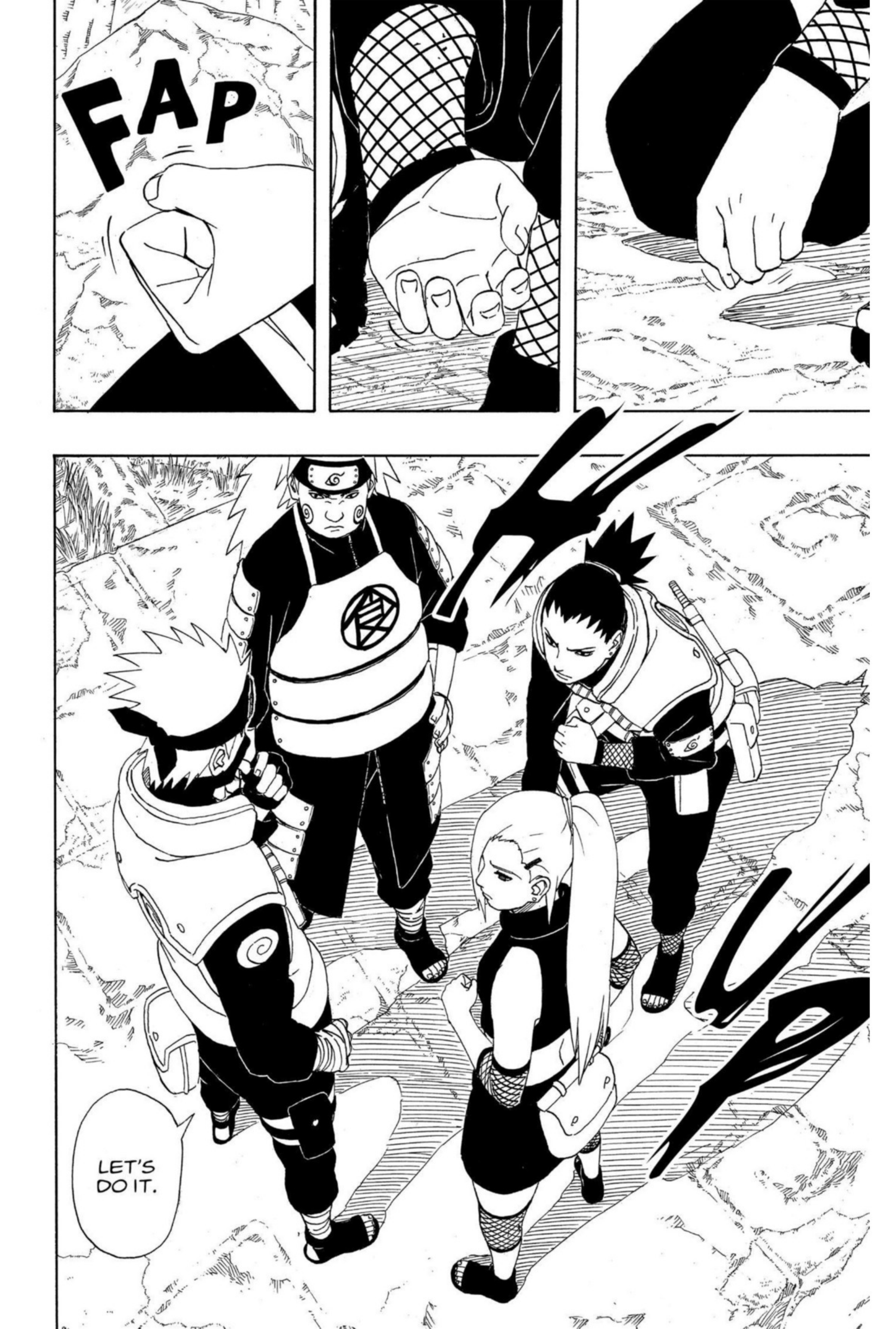

UNDER-STOOD.


...
HE REALLY IS IMPRESSIVE, RAPIDLY MODIFYING HIS STRATEGY TO ACCOM-MODATE MY SUDDEN ADDITION TO THEIR GROUP.


ONCE YOU'VE GOT EVERYTHING CLEAR IN YOUR MINDS...
...RUN THROUGH A MENTAL SIMULATION AT LEAST THREE TIMES.
IT'S IMPORTANT 'CUZ IMAGE TRAINING CAN REALLY AFFECT MISSION SUCCESS RATE.

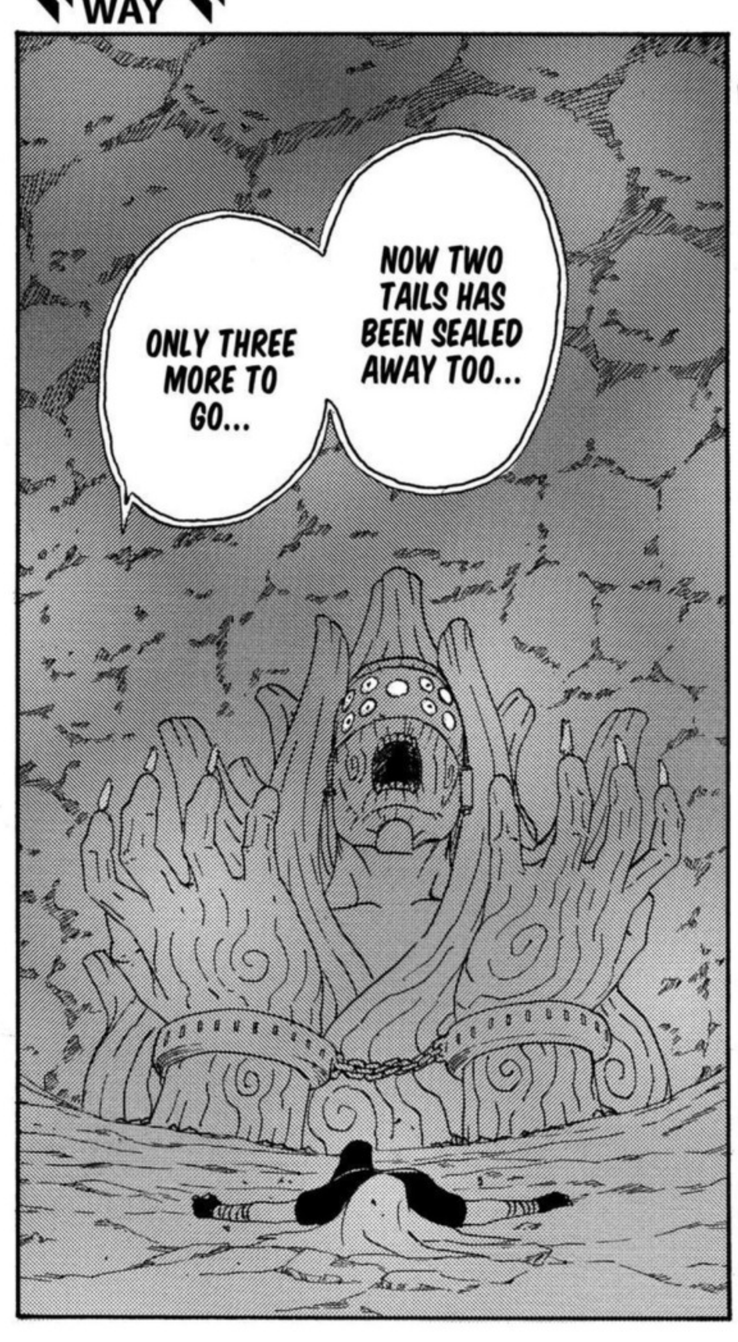

YUP!

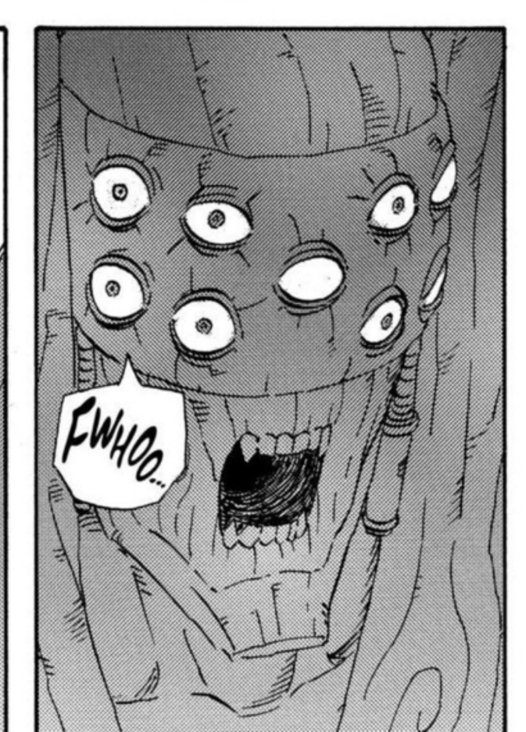

OK!

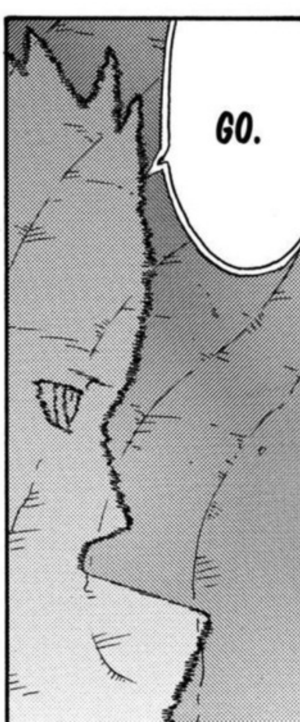

FAP
LET'S DO IT.


READ
THIS
WAY

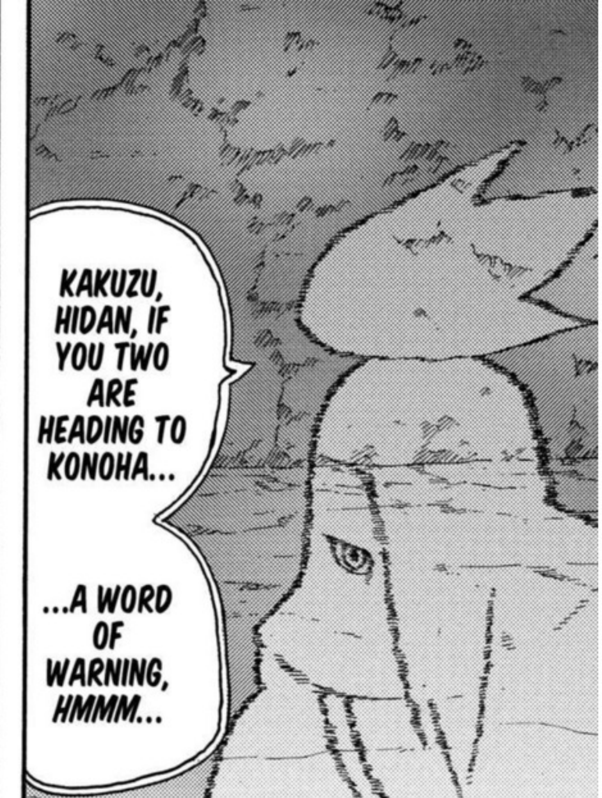

THUD

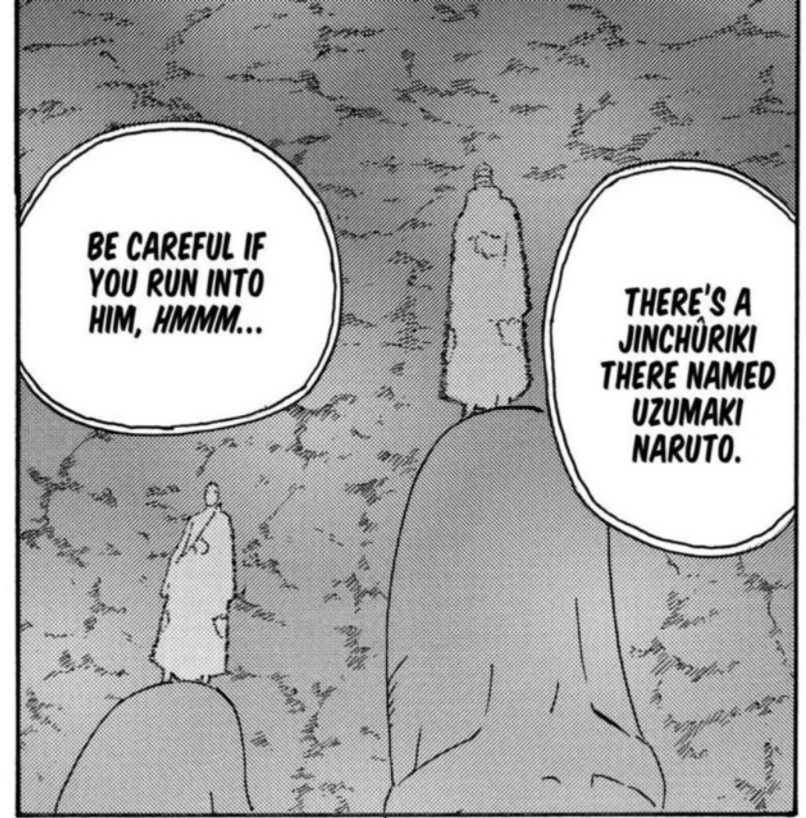

NOW TWO TAILS HAS BEEN SEALED AWAY TOO...
ONLY THREE MORE TO GO...

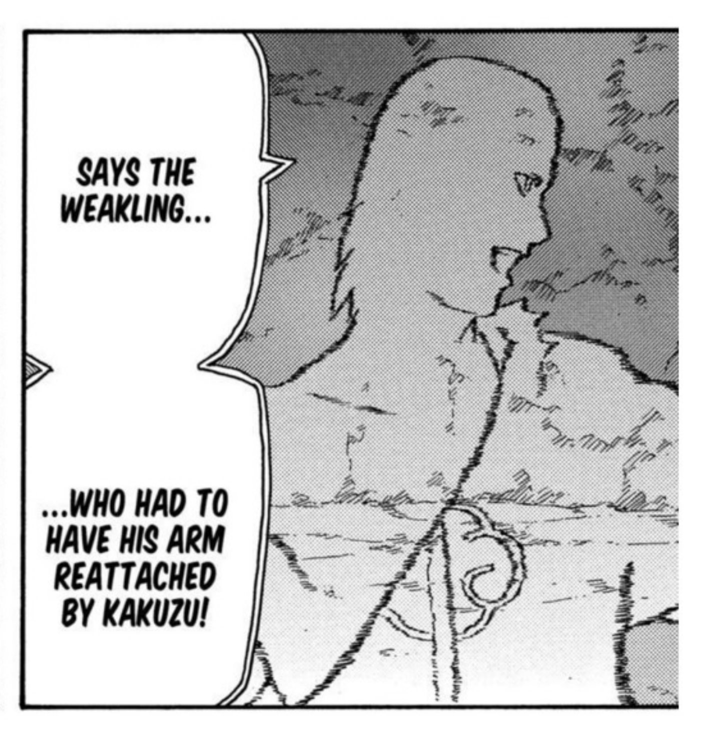

FWHOO...


GO.


FINALLY!
LET'S GO TO KONOHA, HIDAN.

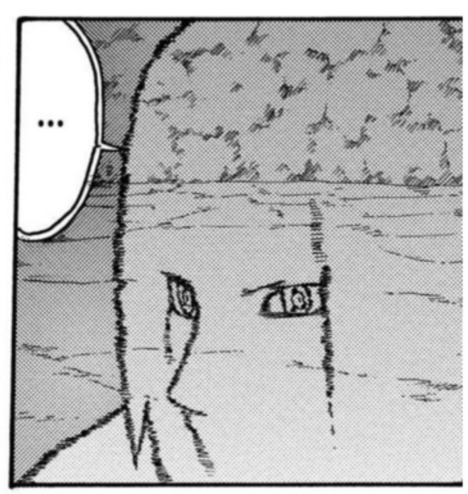

KAKUZU, HIDAN, IF YOU TWO ARE HEADING TO KONOHA...
...A WORD OF WARNING, *HMMM*...

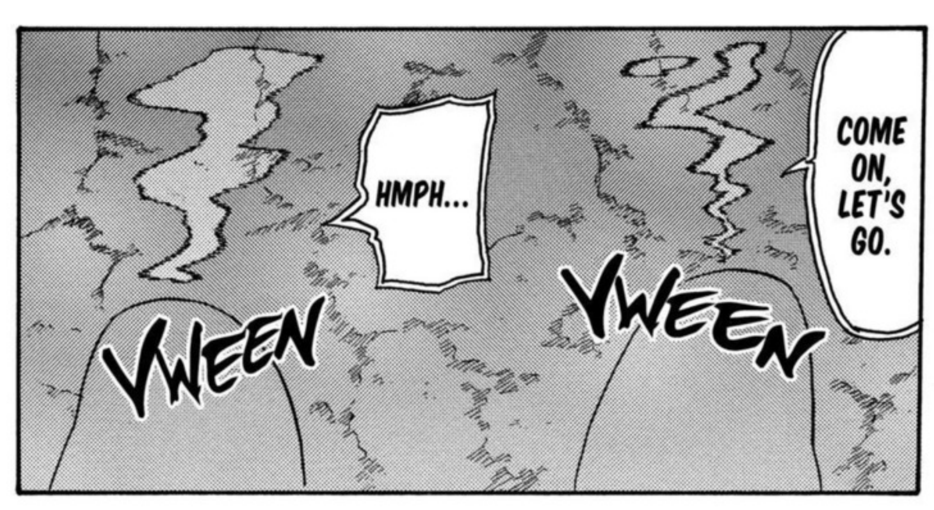

THERE'S A JINCHŪRIKI THERE NAMED UZUMAKI NARUTO.
BE CAREFUL IF YOU RUN INTO HIM, *HMMM*...


SAYS THE WEAKLING...
...WHO HAD TO HAVE HIS ARM REATTACHED BY KAKUZU!


BETTER ARM THAN NECK...

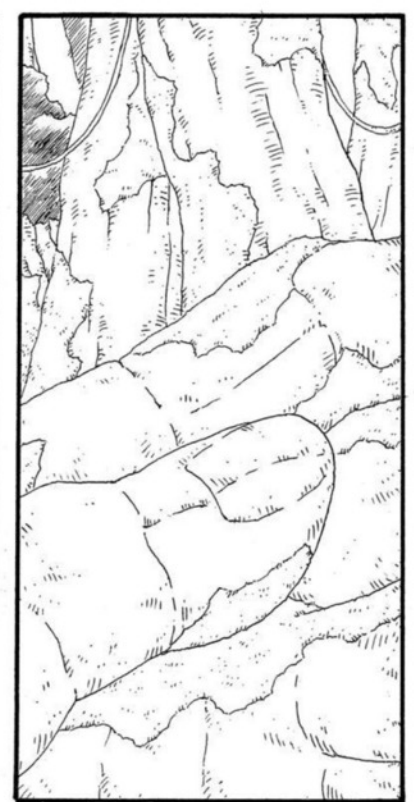

HEY! KAKUZU!
WHOSE SIDE ARE YOU ON?!


...

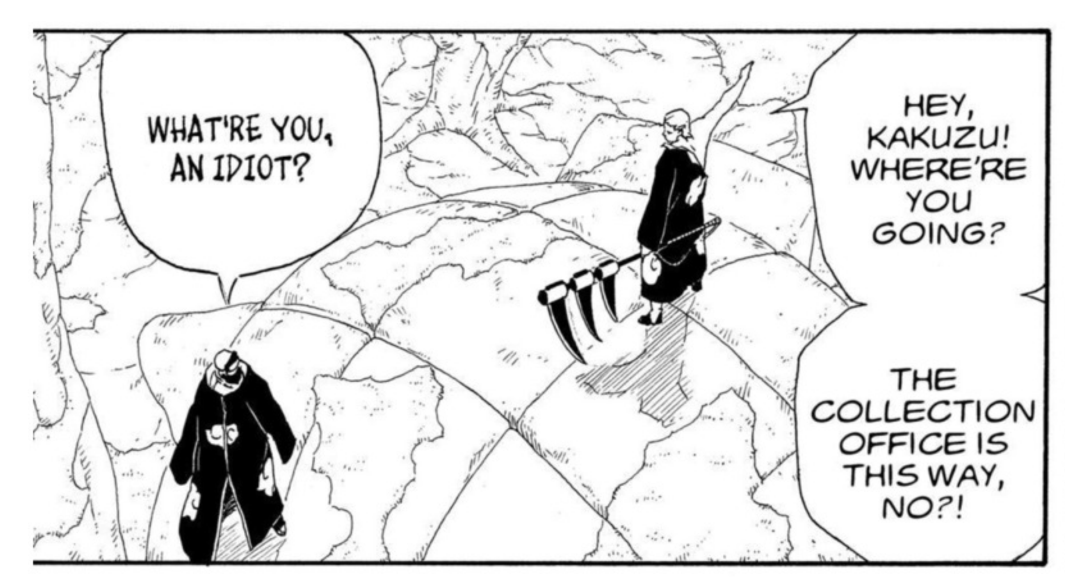

COME ON, LET'S GO.
HMPH...
VWEEN
VWEEN


READ
THIS
WAY


SIX DAYS WITHOUT MOVING... I AM READY TO RAMPAGE!
CRACK
CRACK
SHFF



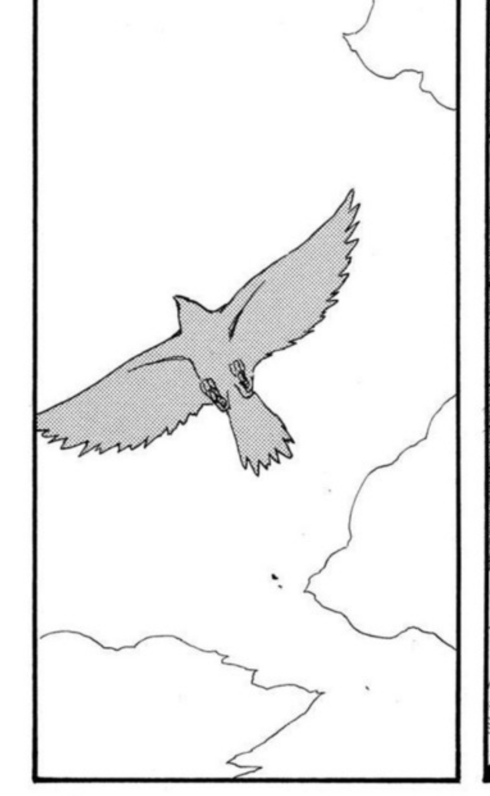

!


HEY, KAKUZU! WHERE'RE YOU GOING?
THE COLLECTION OFFICE IS THIS WAY, NO?!
WHAT'RE YOU, AN IDIOT?

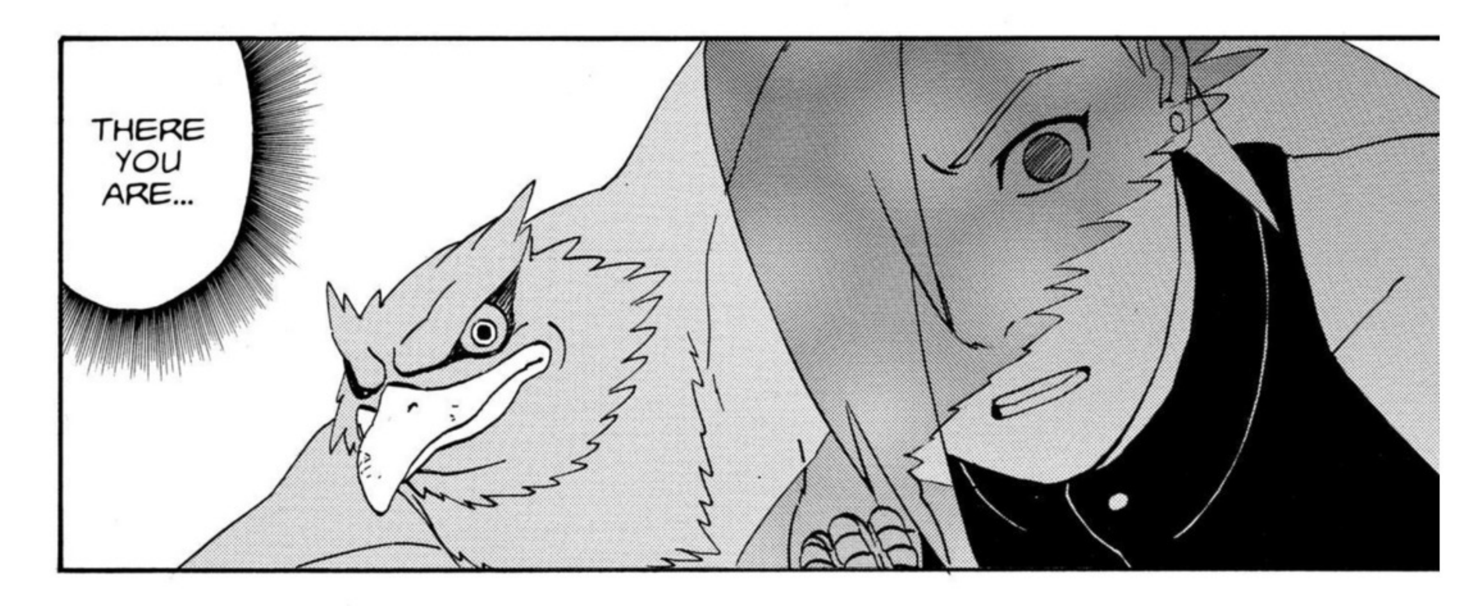

HUH?!
WE'LL BE AMBUSHED...
WE'LL TAKE A DIFFERENT ROUTE INTO KONOHA.

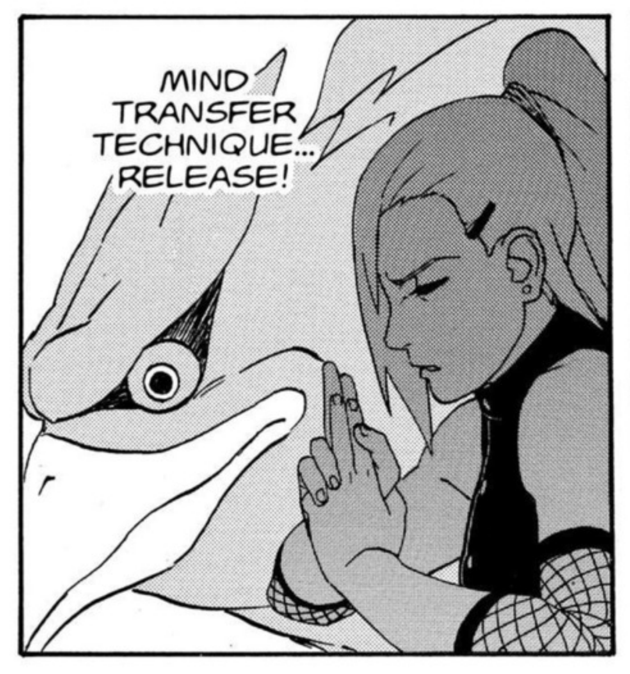

AFTER ALL, IT'S THE JINCHÛRIKI WE'RE AFTER...


...



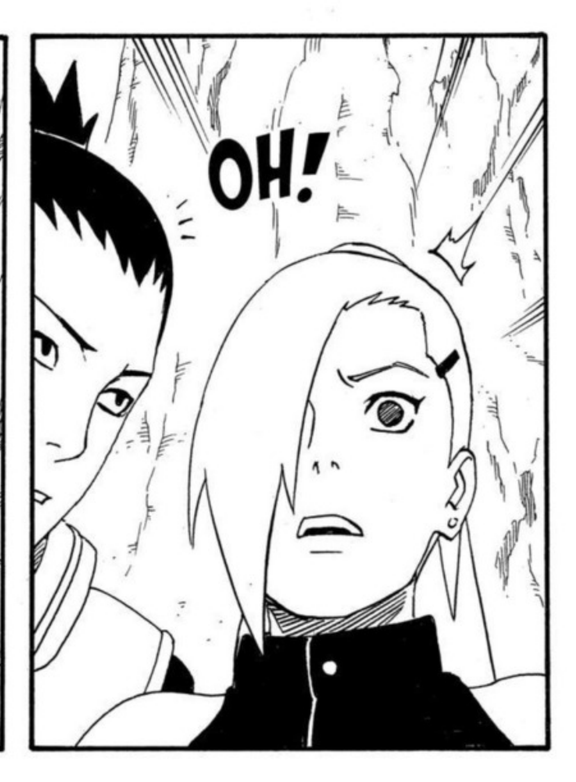

YEAH... GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT.

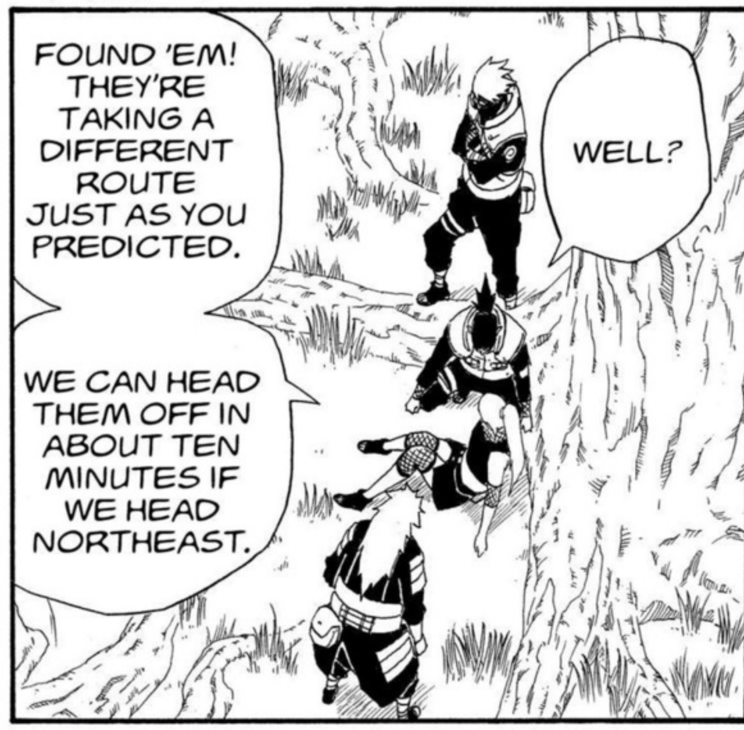

THERE YOU ARE...


MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE... RELEASE!



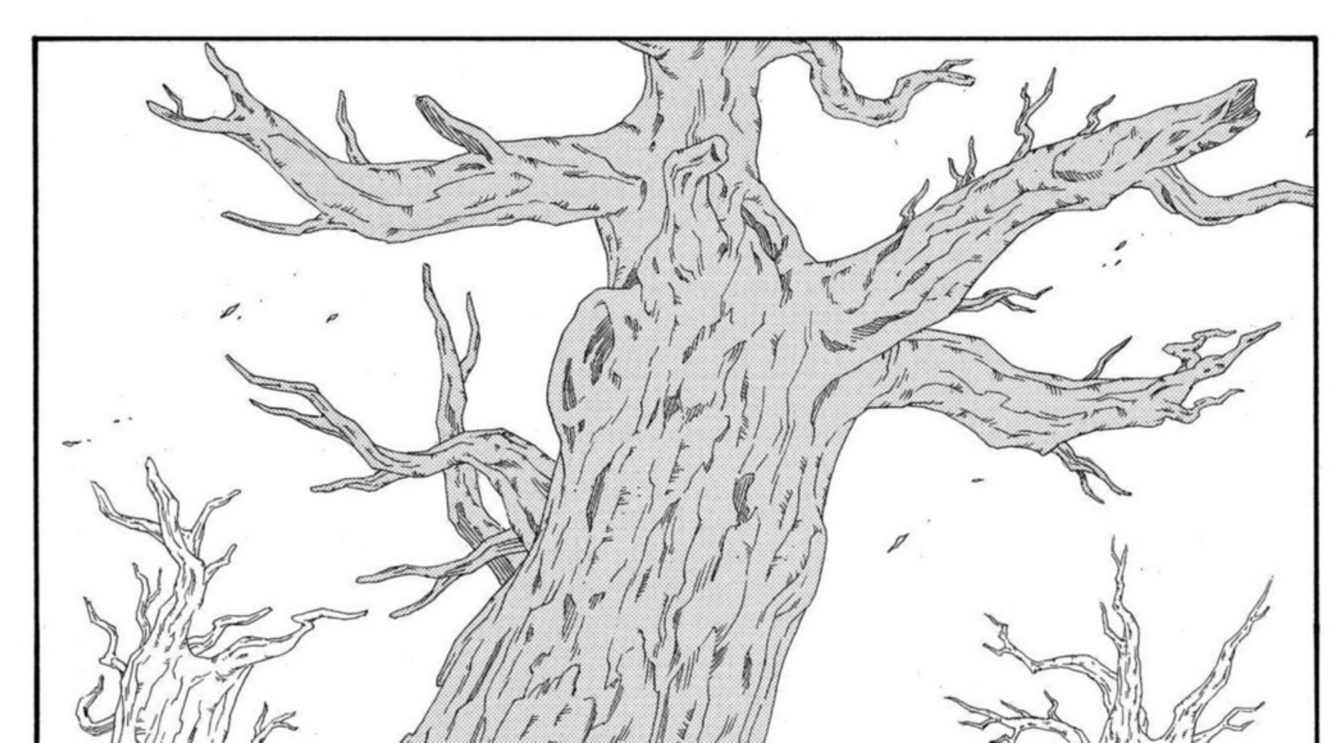

READ
THIS
WAY


OH!

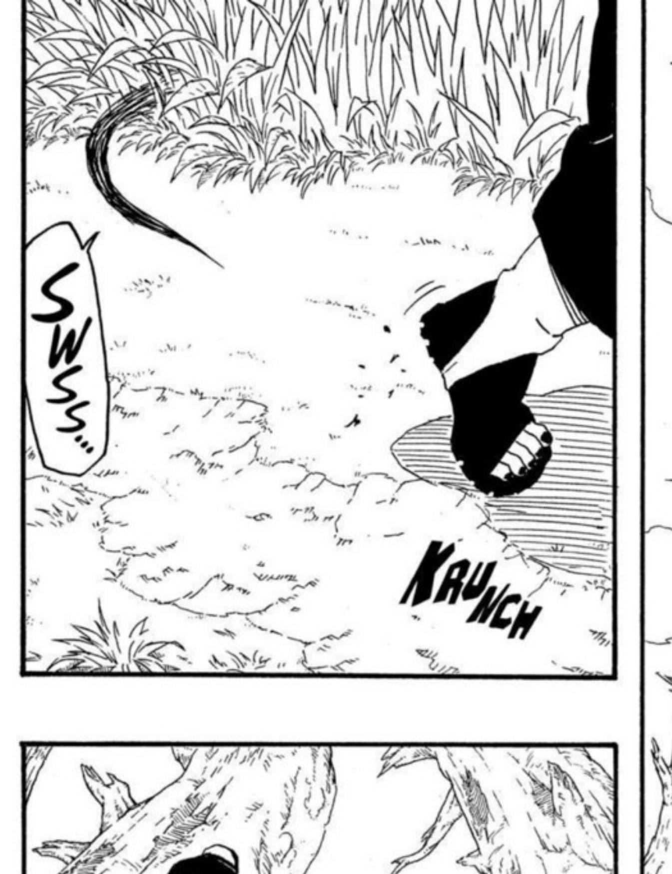

WELL?
FOUND 'EM! THEY'RE TAKING A DIFFERENT ROUTE JUST AS YOU PREDICTED.
WE CAN HEAD THEM OFF IN ABOUT TEN MINUTES IF WE HEAD NORTHEAST.


...


ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!






SWSSS...
KRUNCH


SSS...


SWSS...


HIDAN...

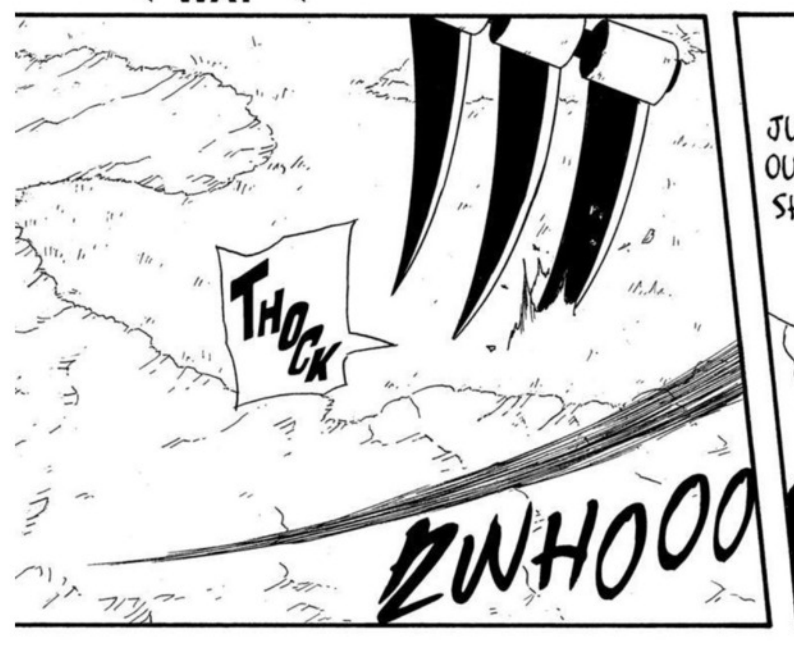

I KNOW...

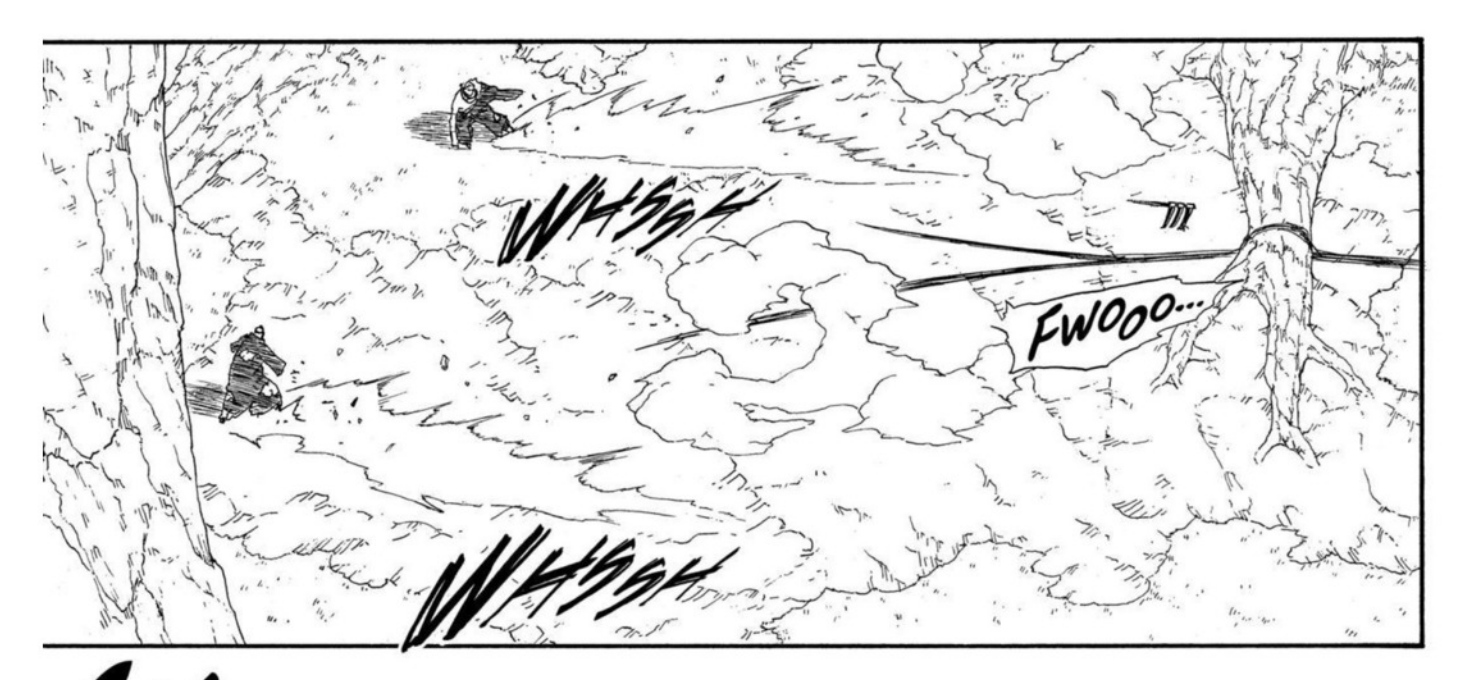

WHOOSH
ZWHOOSH
WHOOSH
!!
!!
THAP
TUMP
VOOSH...
WHIP
TUMP
!
KACHING
ARGH!
LETTER BOMBS!


BOM
BOM
UNNH...!
BOOF
SHFFF
CLATTER
CLATTER
KAKUZU
!
I HARDENED
MY ARM, SO
I'M FINE!
SHFFF


READ THIS WAY


JUST WATCH OUT FOR THE SHADOWS...!
SIZZLE...


THOCK
ZWHOOO


WHSSH
FWOOO...
WHSSH


HAH!
WE WON'T KEEP FALLING FOR THE SAME TRICK!


HIDAN, ABOVE YOU!


SHF
!



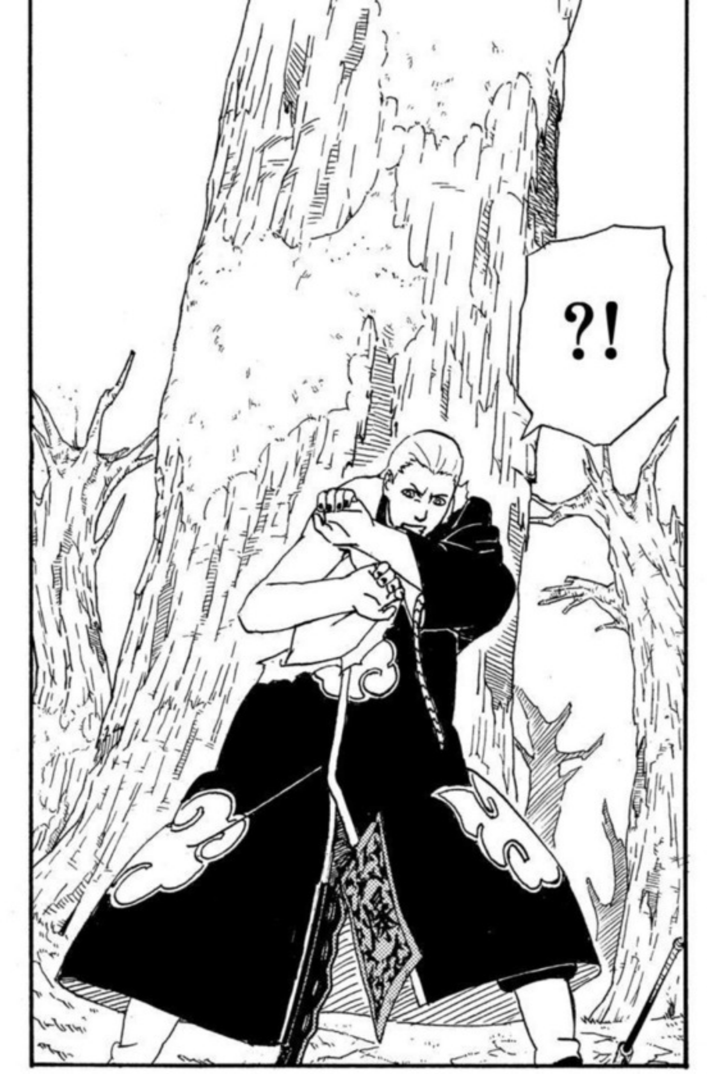


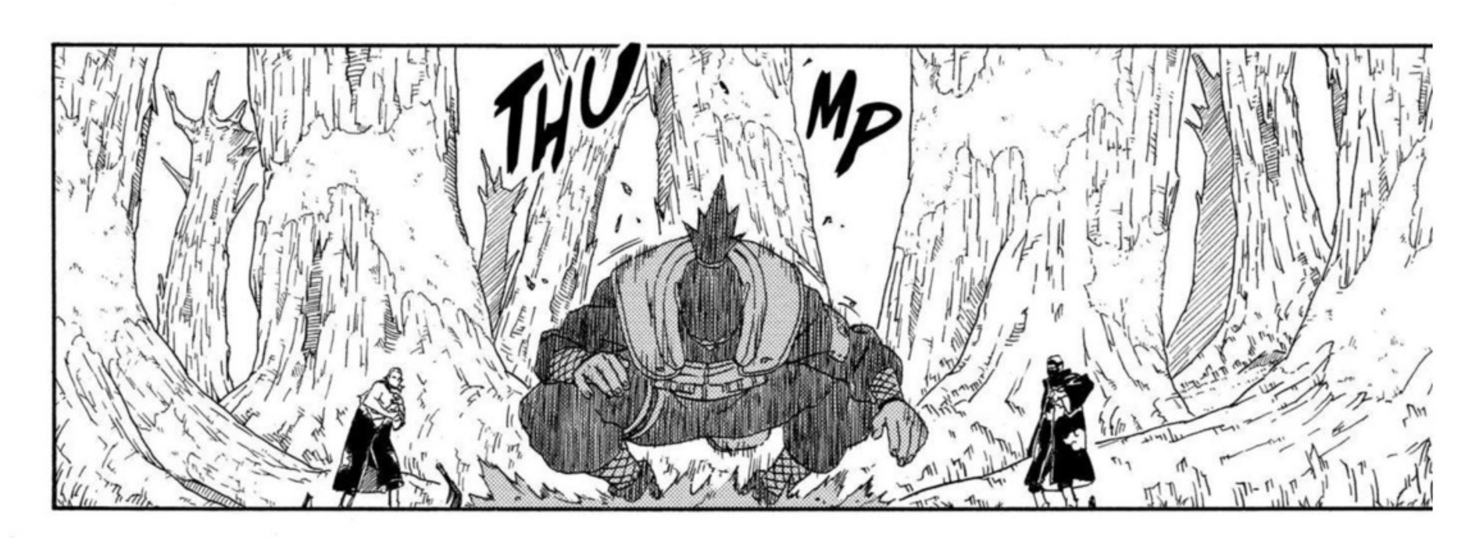
MORE LETTER BOMBS!

HIDAN, LOOK OUT!

UNH!

THOK


?!


THUMP

IT DIDN'T DETO-NATE?!

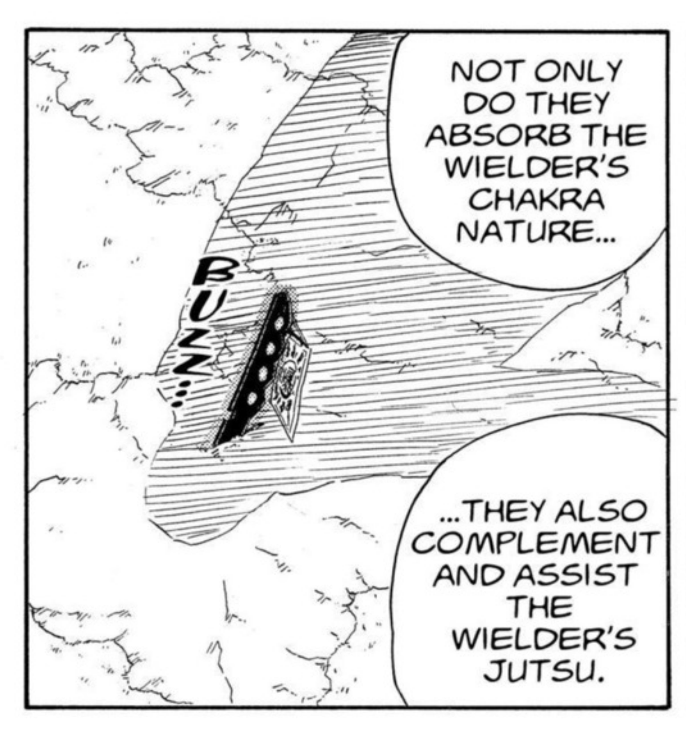
?!

WE'VE BEEN HAD...


ART OF THE SHADOW POSSESSION SHURIKEN, ACHIEVED.
SHF...


RNH! ...CAN'T MOVE...?!
FOOL.


WHAT I THREW AT YOU WERE CHAKRA BLADES.


NOT ONLY DO THEY ABSORB THE WIELDER'S CHAKRA NATURE...
BUZZ...
...THEY ALSO COMPLEMENT AND ASSIST THE WIELDER'S JUTSU.

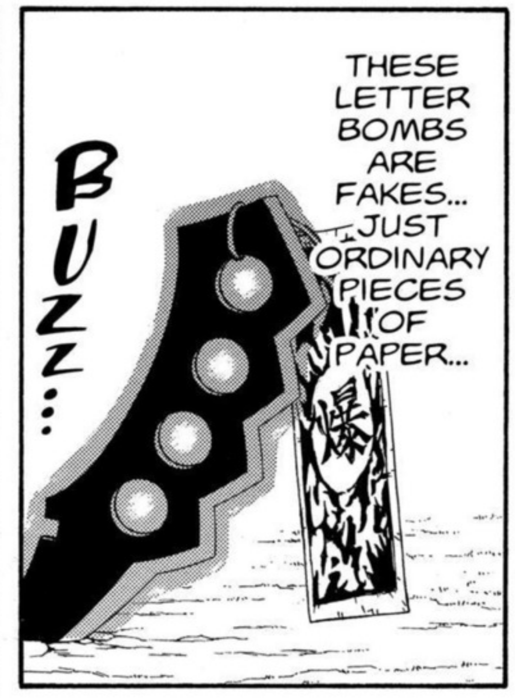

IN SHORT, I WAS AIMING THEM AT YOUR SHADOWS THE WHOLE TIME!

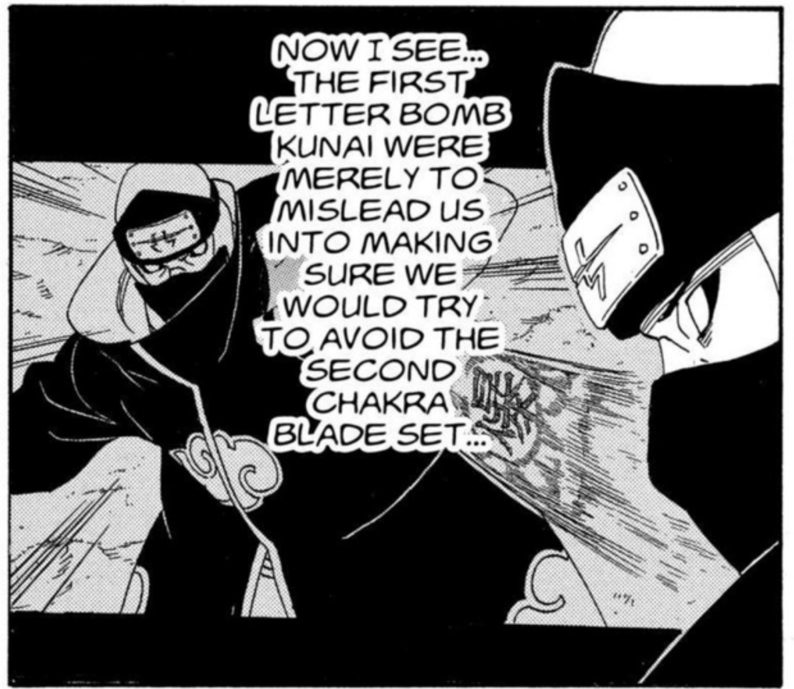

RIGHT NOW YOU'D BE A KNIGHT.
KNIGHTS MAY BE WEAK, BUT CAN ADVANCE BY LEAPING OVER OTHER PIECES. SUCH UNIQUE MOVEMENT...

...IS SIMILAR TO YOUR QUICK WIT AND UNPRE-DICTABLE MIND.

(桂: KNIGHT, 角: BISHOP, AND 飛: ROOK)


READ
THIS
WAY


THESE LETTER BOMBS ARE FAKES... JUST ORDINARY PIECES OF PAPER...
BUZZ...


NOW I SEE... THE FIRST LETTER BOMB KUNAI WERE MERELY TO MISLEAD US INTO MAKING SURE WE WOULD TRY TO AVOID THE SECOND CHAKRA BLADE SET...


HE THEN DISTRACTED US FURTHER BY FORCING OUR ATTENTION TO THE GROUND WITH HIS SHADOW PLAY SO WE WOULDN'T NOTICE HIS ATTACK FROM ABOVE UNTIL THE LAST MINUTE! BY LEAVING US NO TIME TO EVADE, HE BOUGHT HIMSELF THE TIME TO PIERCE OUR SHADOWS AND PARALYZE US!

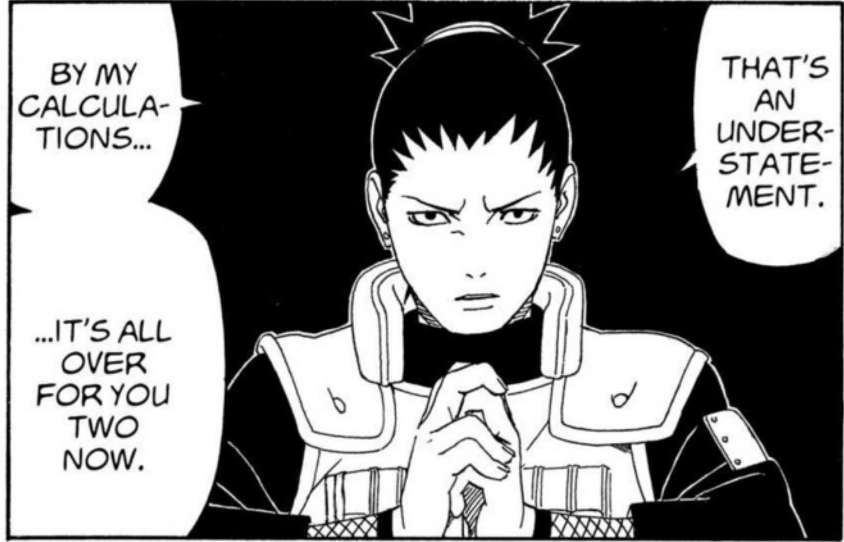

QUITE THE TACTICIAN, THIS ONE.


...


NARUTO

Number 333: Affinities...!!



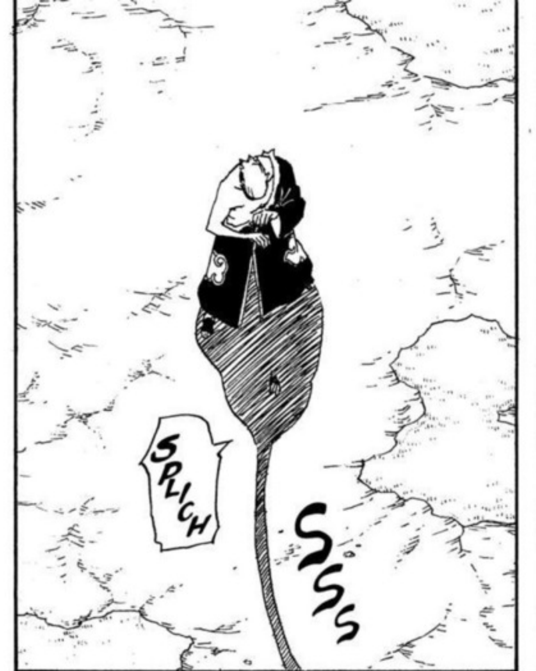




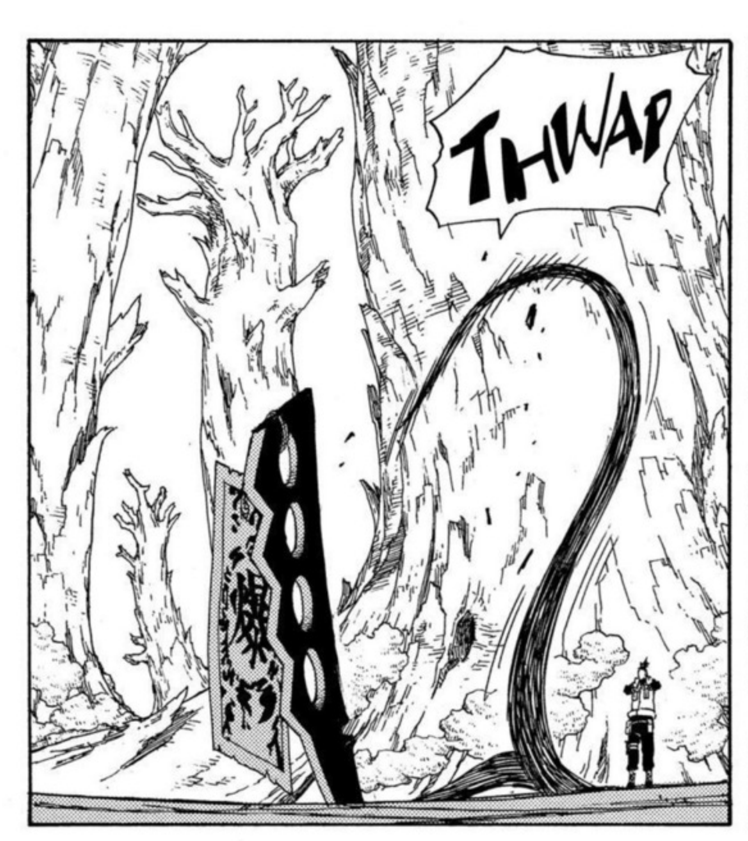




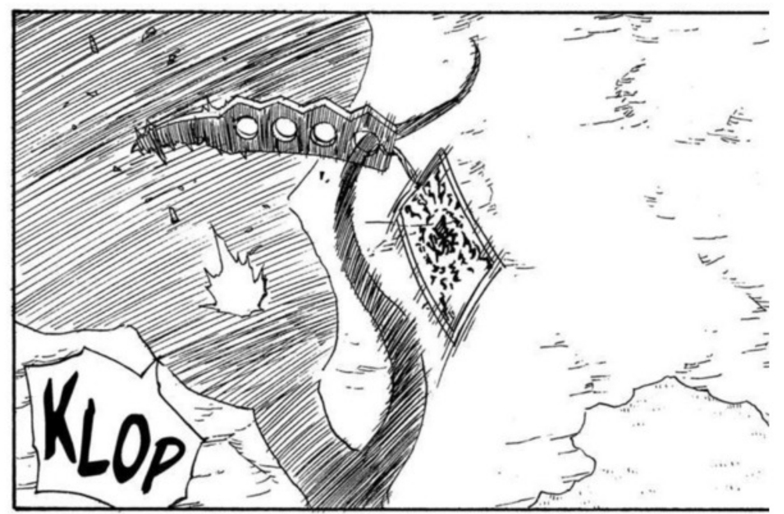

GOOD WORK...


SPLICH
SSSS


...

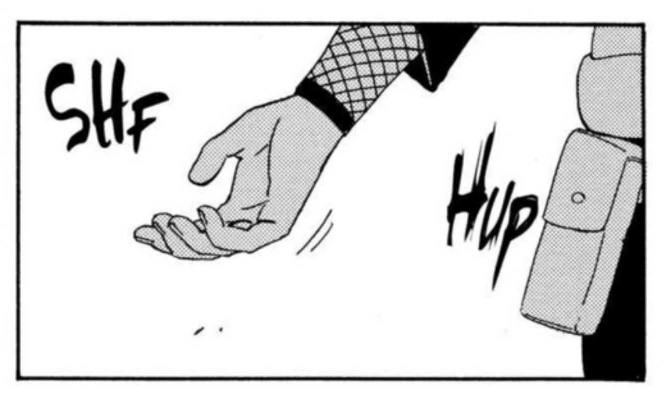

THWAP

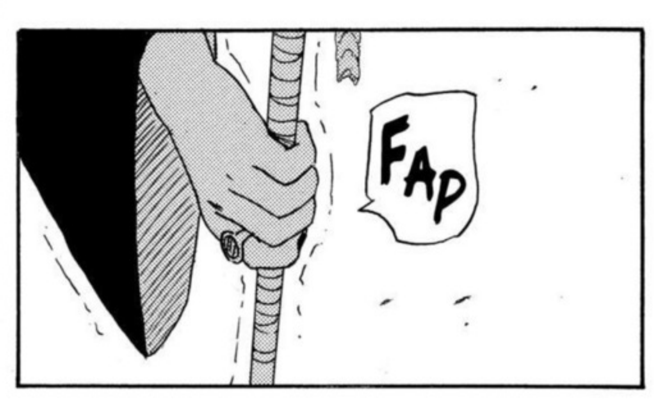

FOOL...

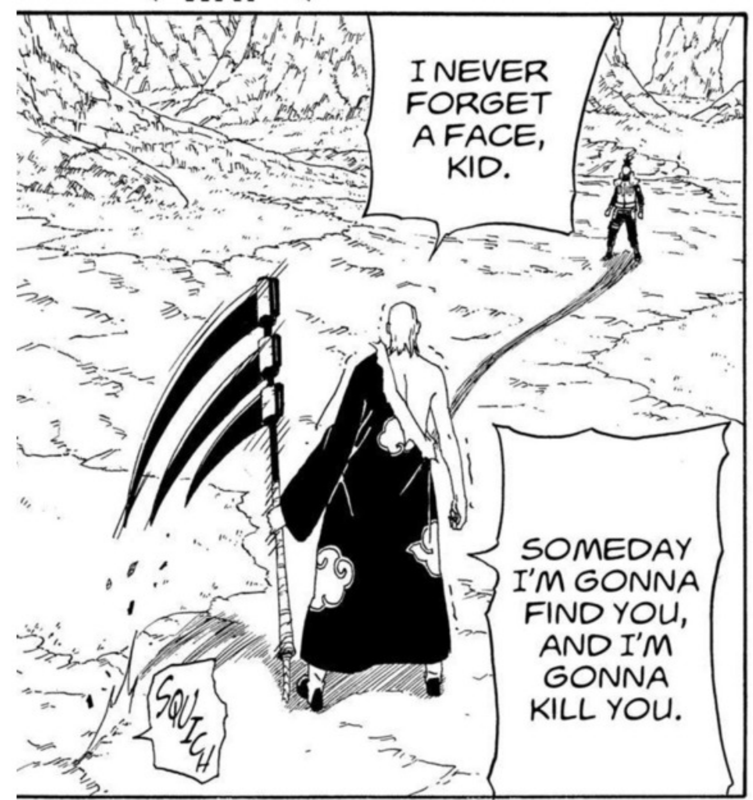

KLOP


THIS TIME, WE WON'T MESS UP OUR ORDER OF ATTACK.
S'S...

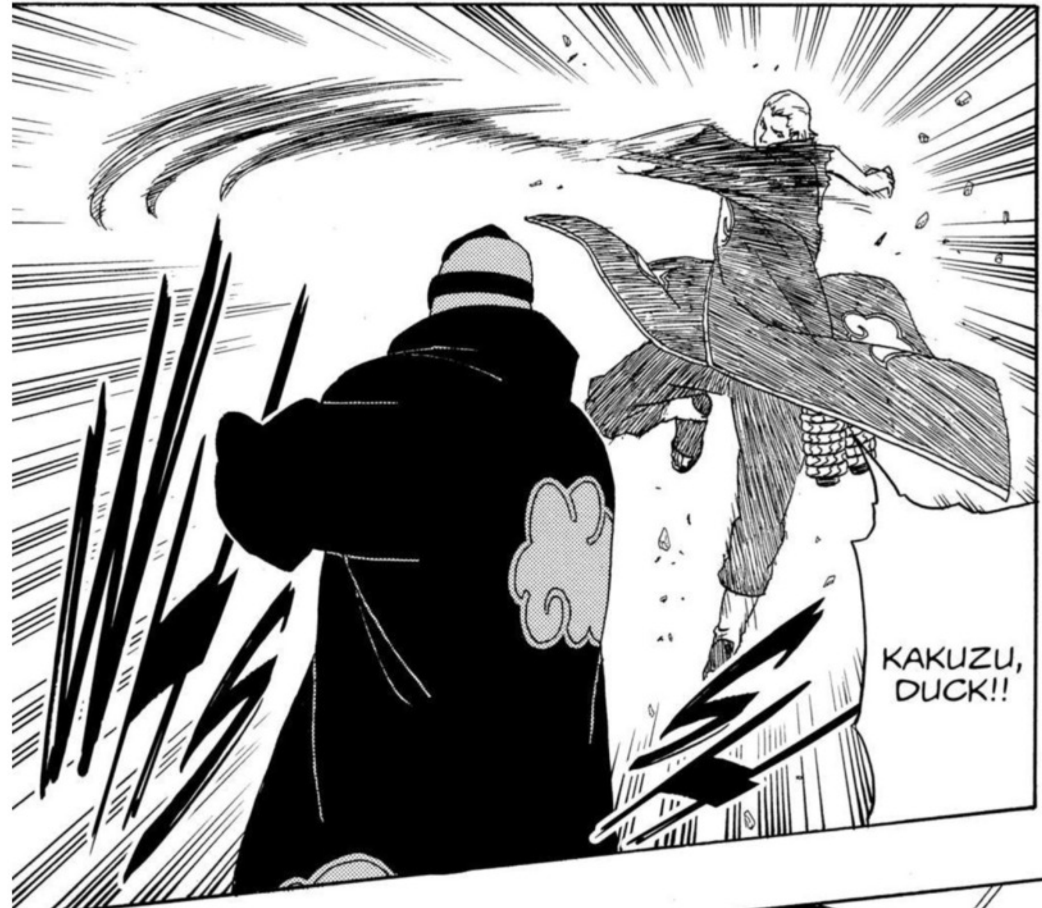

READ
THIS
WAY


SHF
HUP


FAP


I NEVER FORGET A FACE, KID.
SOMEDAY I'M GONNA FIND YOU, AND I'M GONNA KILL YOU.
SQUICH


YEAH, WELL...
...YOU JUST DON'T GET IT, DO YOU?

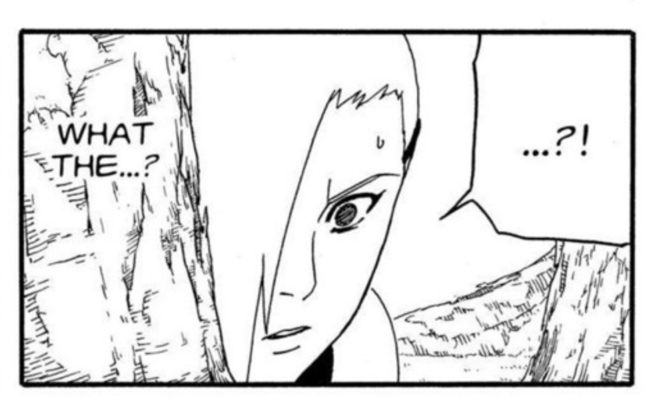

KAKUZU, DUCK!!


...!

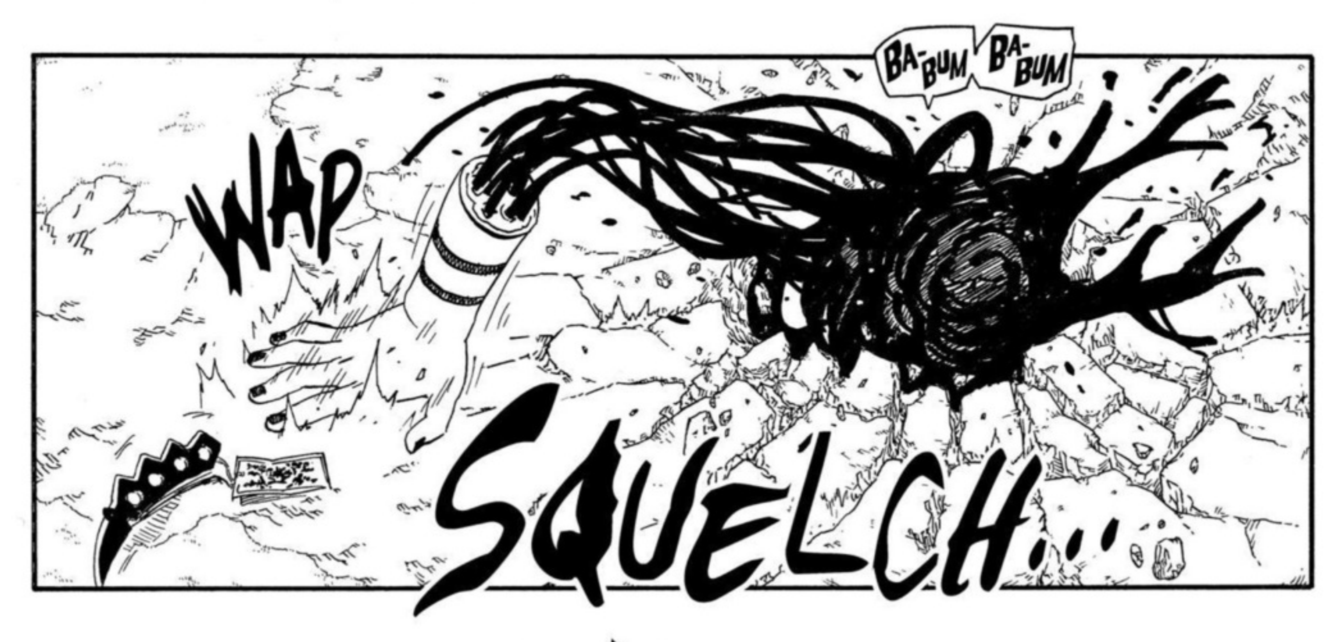

Number 333: Affinities...!!
?!
YEAH!!


READ
THIS
WAY

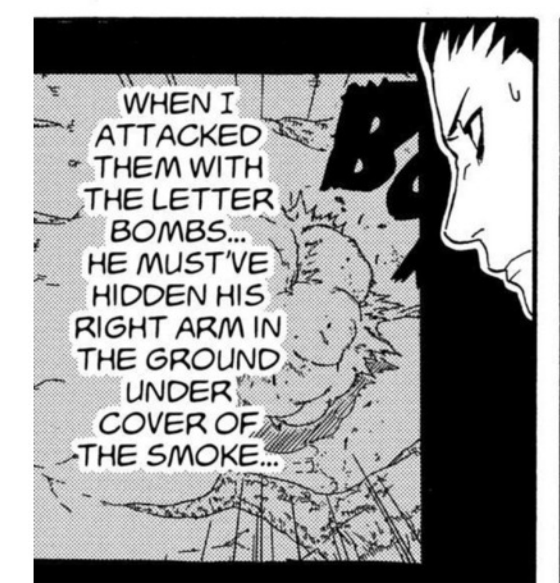

?!


...?!
WHAT THE...?

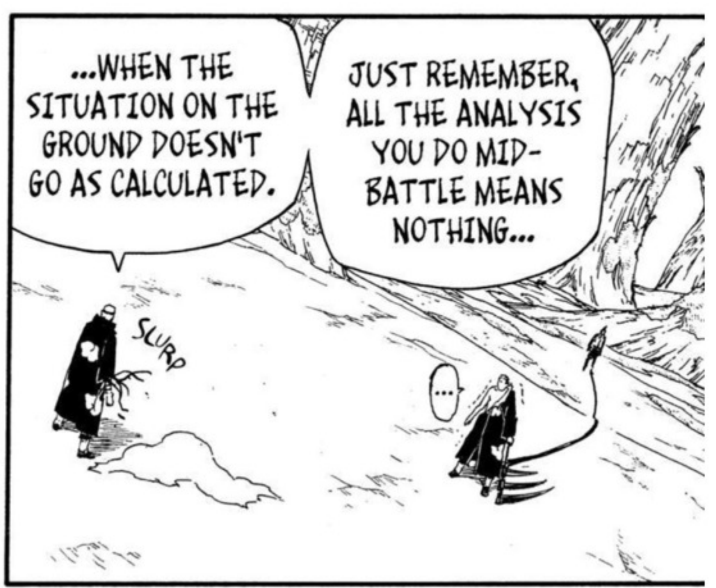



BA-BUM BA-BUM
WAP
SQUELCH...


ZWHOOO
WHSSH


WHEN I ATTACKED THEM WITH THE LETTER BOMBS... HE MUST'VE HIDDEN HIS RIGHT ARM IN THE GROUND UNDER COVER OF THE SMOKE...


AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, MY ABILITIES ARE COUNTLESS...
...SO YOU'D BE WISE TO RETREAT AND PLAN YOUR NEXT MOVE...
SWIRL
...IF YOU'RE SMART, UNLIKE MY COMPANION HERE...
BA-BUM
BA-BUM

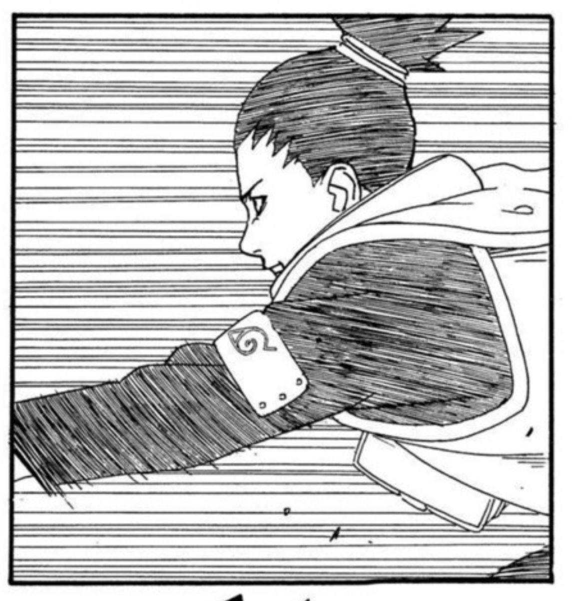

JUST REMEMBER, ALL THE ANALYSIS YOU DO MID-BATTLE MEANS NOTHING...
...WHEN THE SITUATION ON THE GROUND DOESN'T GO AS CALCULATED.
SLURP
...


KAKUZU! WHAT DO YOU MEAN, "UNLIKE MY COMPANION," EH...?

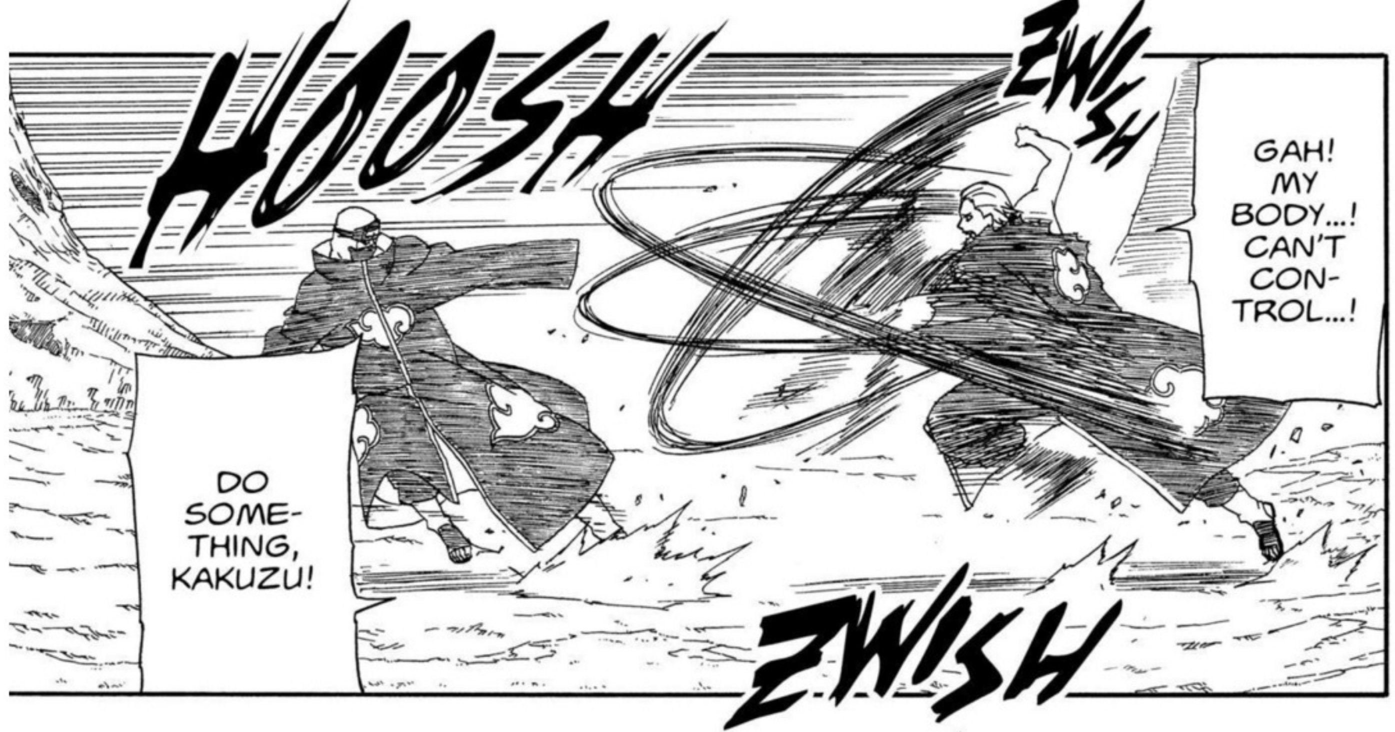

!!
THUP


RNH!
WHSSH


READ
THIS
WAY






GAH! MY BODY...! CAN'T CON-TROL...!
ZWISH
HOOSH
DO SOME-THING, KAKUZU!
ZWISH

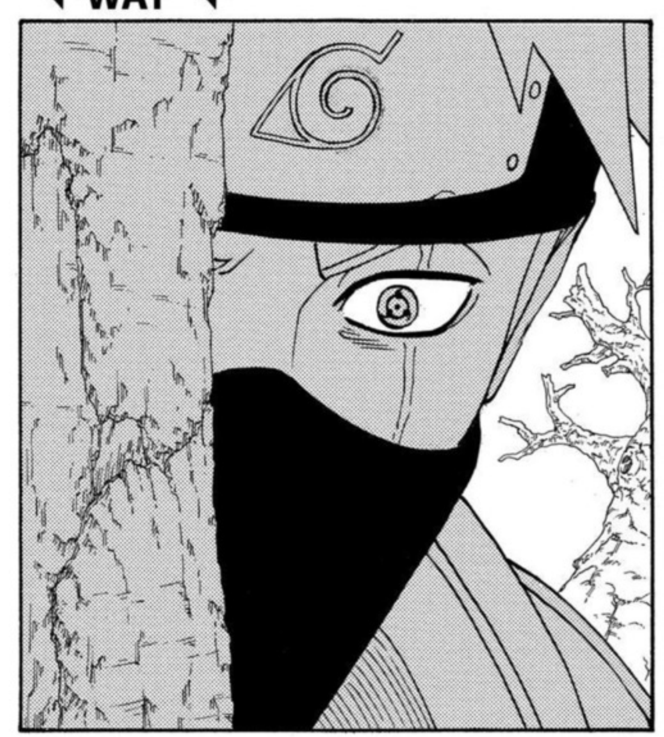

THUMP

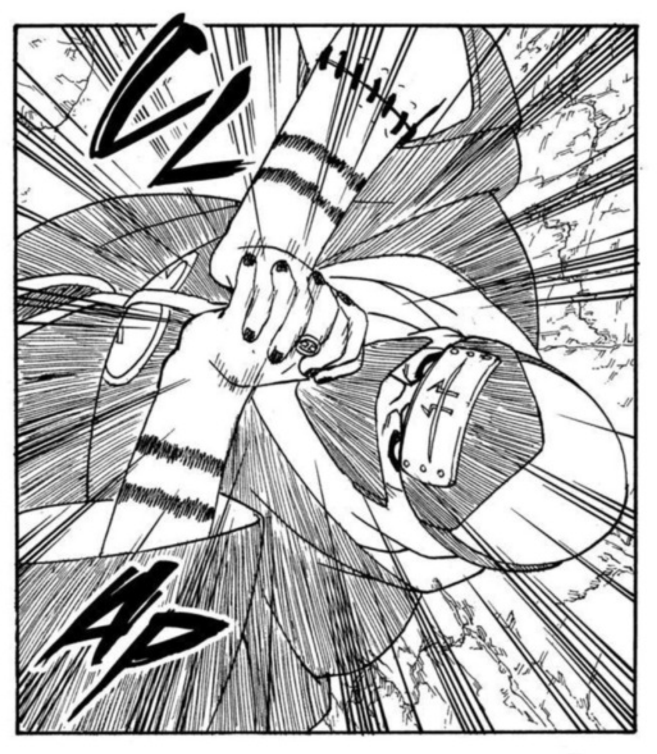

NOW, CHOJI!!


WHSSH

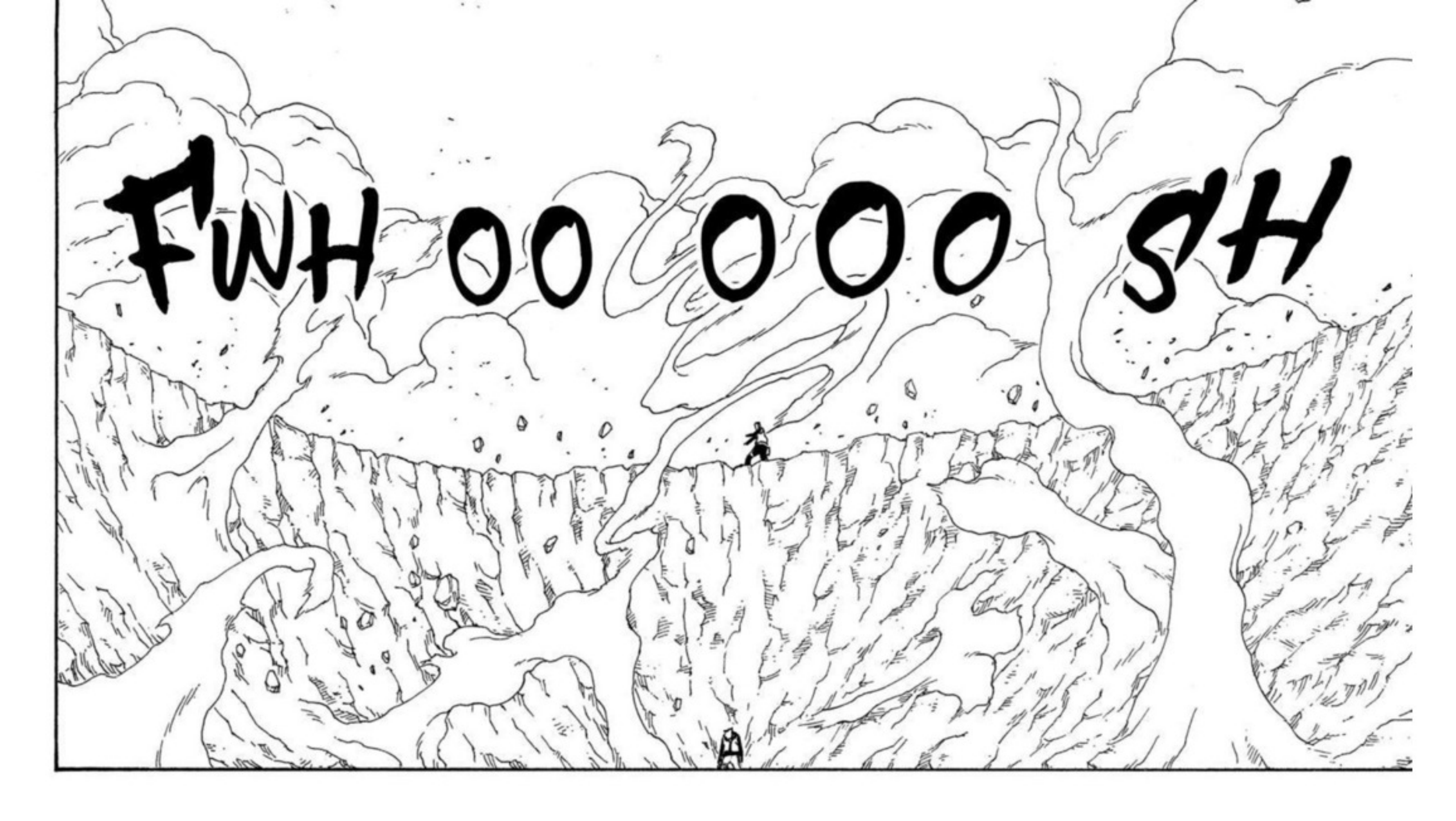

SHFF
VWHEEEEN
!
NIKUDAN HARI-SENSHA! SPIKED HUMAN JUGGER-NAUT!!
!

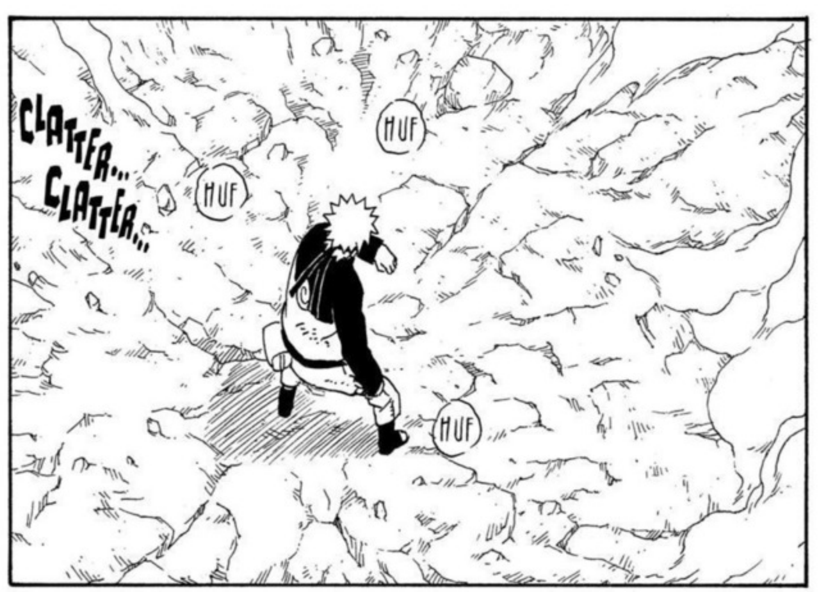






GUG-
GUG-
GUG GUG-


FWHOOOOOSH


CLATTER...
CLATTER...
HUF
HUF
HUF


O-OH MY...


SHFF...
ALMOST THERE!!


...NOW SASUKE AND I CAN BE EQUALS...


...


READ THIS WAY


FOR SURE...
KRUNCH...
...BUT YOU MUST STILL BE CAREFUL AROUND SASUKE'S FIRE CHANGE IN NATURE.
!


HUH?


RIGHT... I SHOULD PROBABLY START EXPLAINING TO YOU THE POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE RELATIONSHIPS AMONG THE FIVE GREAT CHANGES IN NATURE...
SHK SHK
POSITIVE AND NEGATIVE ...?


SIMPLY PUT...
...THE FIVE CHANGES IN NATURE, FIRE, WATER, EARTH, LIGHTNING, AND WIND...
...EACH RELATE DIFFERENTLY TO THE OTHERS. UNDER-STAND?
FSSH


YEAH... UH... ACTU-ALLY, NO. NOT REALLY ...


HERE... PICTURE IT LIKE THIS...

THIS IS HOW WE DEPICT THE FIVE GREAT CHANGES IN CHAKRA NATURE ON PAPER.

優 (SUPERIOR) 劣 (INFERIOR)

火 FIRE

(INFERIOR) 劣

風 WIND

(SUPERIOR) 優

水 WATER

雷 LIGHTNING

土 EARTH

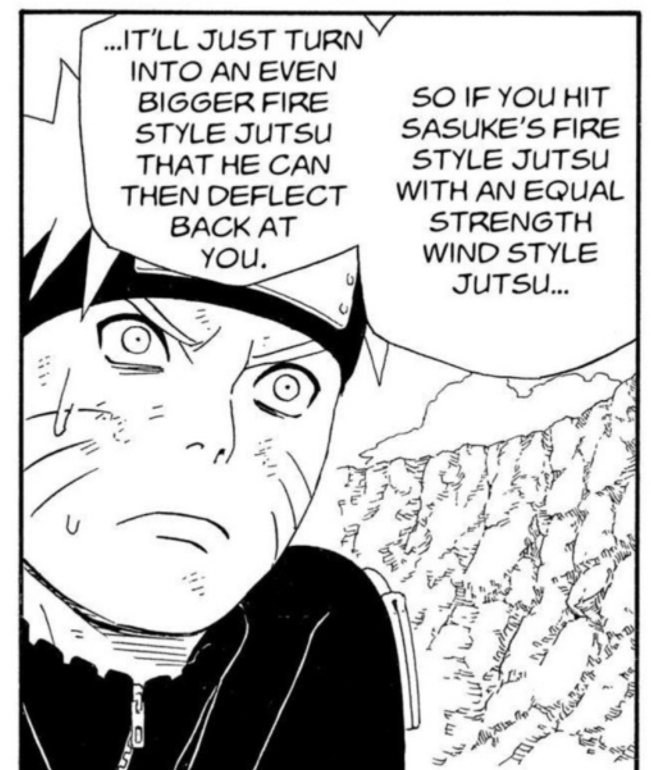
SWIFF SWIFF...

AND SO... FOR EXAMPLE, FIRE IS A CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE THAT IS SUPERIOR TO WIND BUT INFERIOR TO WATER CHANGE IN CHAKRA NATURE.



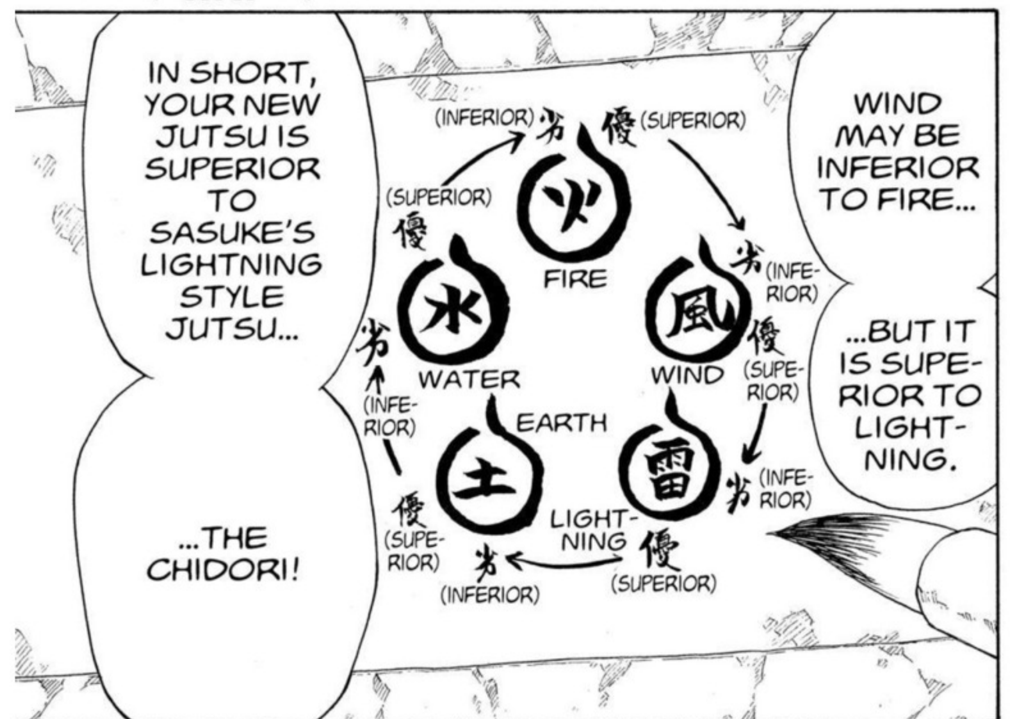


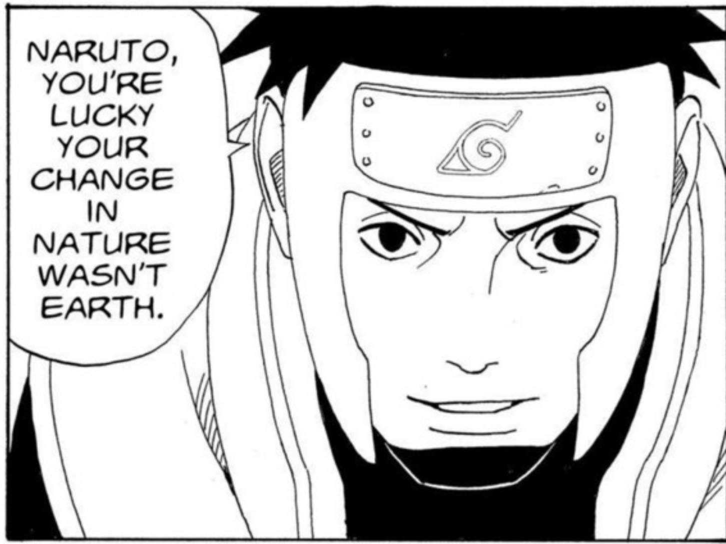





READ THIS WAY


HOWEVER, LOOK ABOVE AND BELOW WIND.


WIND MAY BE INFERIOR TO FIRE...
...BUT IT IS SUPERIOR TO LIGHTNING.
IN SHORT, YOUR NEW JUTSU IS SUPERIOR TO SASUKE'S LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU...
...THE CHIDORI!
FIRE
WIND
LIGHTNING
EARTH
WATER
劣 (INFERIOR)
優 (SUPERIOR)


NARUTO, YOU'RE LUCKY YOUR CHANGE IN NATURE WASN'T EARTH.

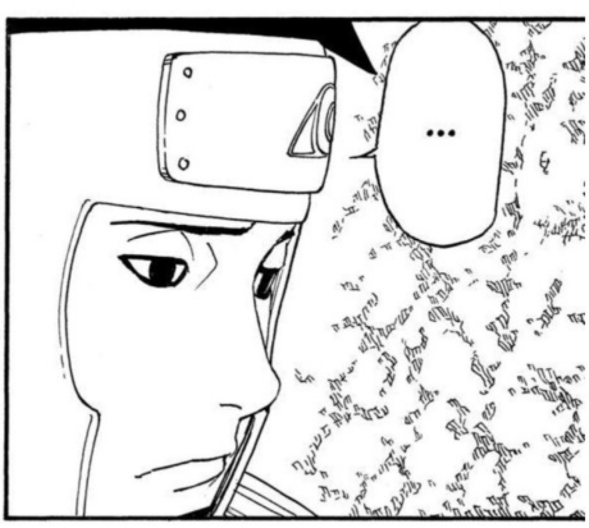

...


WOW. SO SASUKE AND I ARE COMPATIBLE AFTER ALL...
...MM HMN... WIND BEATS LIGHTNING OUTRIGHT.

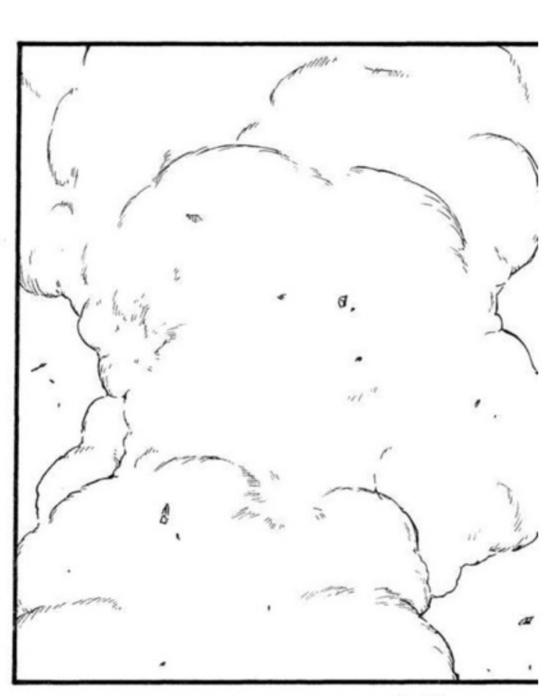

NAH, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT...
?

ONLY WIND...

...CAN ASSIST AND MAGNIFY FIRE.

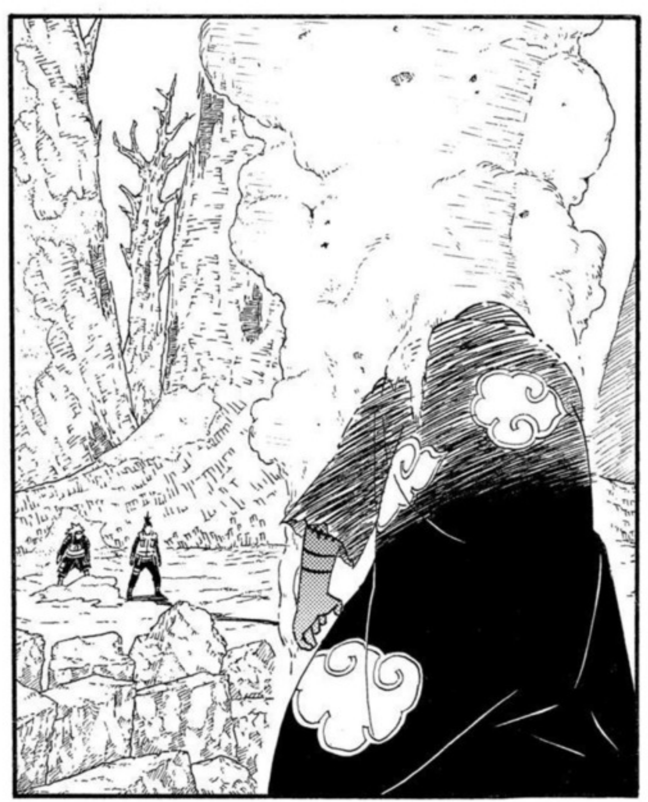









READ
THIS
WAY




SHWING


...


...HE'S GOT SOME JUTSU THAT LETS HIM HARDEN HIS BODY.
THAT'S HIS ABILITY...

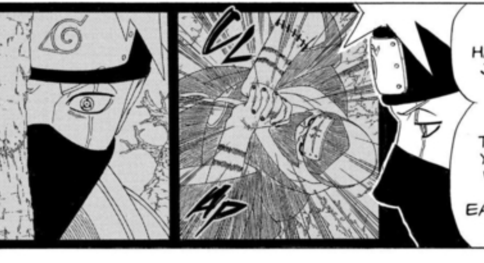

GOOD EYE...
IT'S TRUE. PHYSICAL ATTACKS ARE VIRTUALLY USELESS AGAINST ME.


ENOUGH CHITCHAT... LET'S STARTING LAUNCHING OUR COUNTERATTACK.
KAKUZU, HURRY UP AND NULL THIS STUPID SHADOW JUTSU AL-READY...


!!
SHA-THUNK!


H-HOW...? I-I DIDN'T EVEN SENSE YOUR APPROACH...!


THAT FLESH-HARDENING JUTSU OF YOURS...
...FROM THE SIGNS YOU WERE WEAVING, IT'S AN EARTH STYLE JUTSU.






YOU... COULD READ THE SIGNS...?
WAIT... YOUR MASTERY OF LIGHTNING STYLE JUTSU... THAT'S IT!


YOU'RE...

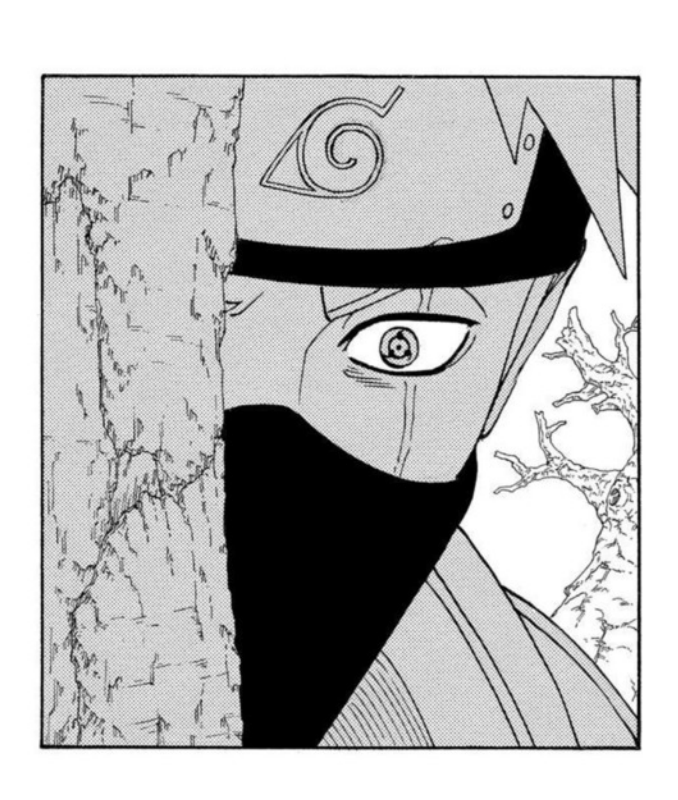

EARTH IS INFERIOR TO LIGHTNING... YOUR BAD LUCK.
YOU'RE DONE FOR.


CRACKLE CRACKLE CRACKLE
CRACKLE CRACKLE


WHAT?!!


?!


!



Number 334: The Black Metamorphoses...!!









Number 334: The Black Metamorphoses...!!





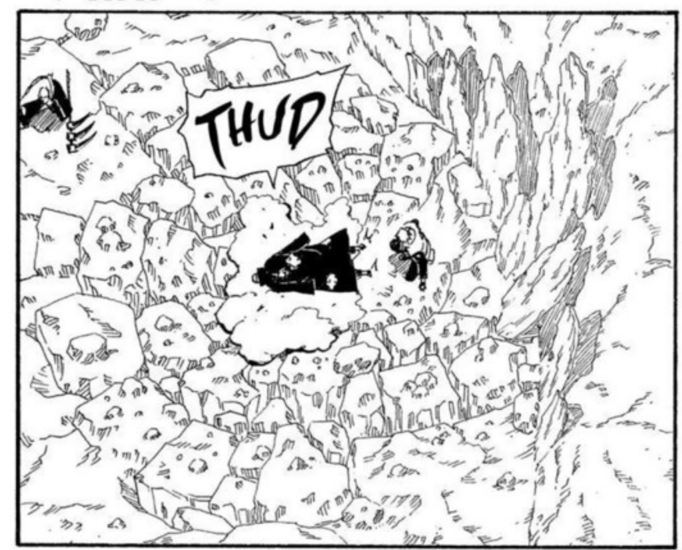












SUCKER PUNCHED RIGHT THROUGH THE HEART, EH?

CAN'T BELIEVE YOU WERE DONE IN LIKE THAT!

YOU'RE NEXT.

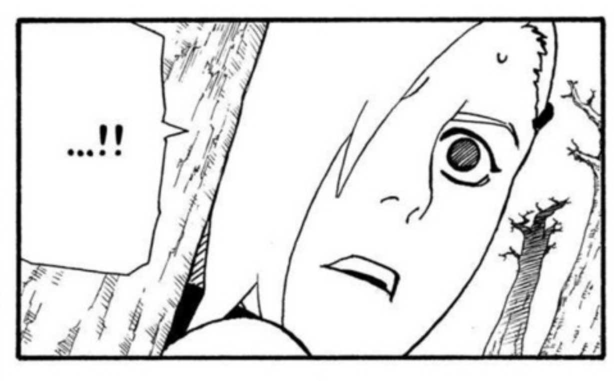
CRACKLE CRACKLE...

GUH ...!

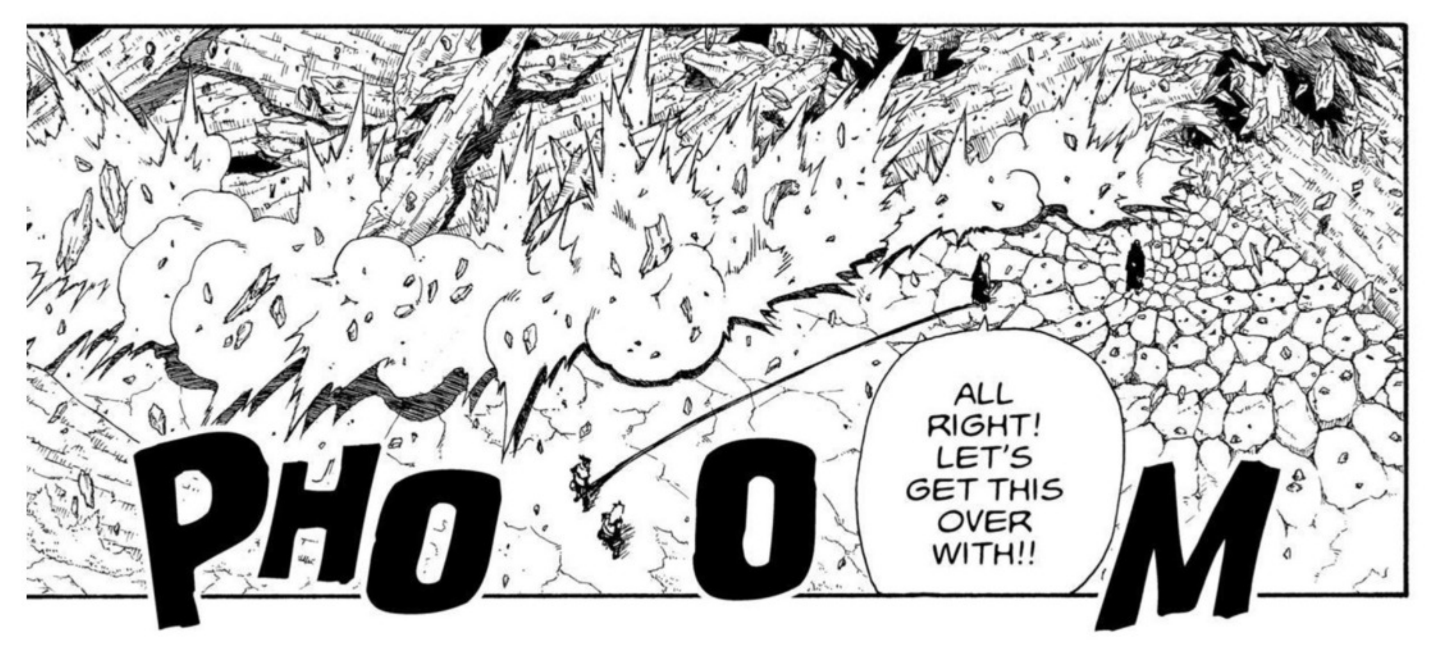

!!
FOOM
BLAM


READ
THIS
WAY


SNAP SNAP...
...
...


...!!


?!
?!


ALL RIGHT! LET'S GET THIS OVER WITH!!
PHOOM


THAT'S THE PLAN.
SNIP


WHAT'S GOING ON? I KNOW I GOT HIS HEART...


FLAP


GAHHH...
SNAP-SNAP
RRNNNH
AAAAAARGH!
ZLURRRP
SNAP
SNAP-
SNAP-
SNAP-


READ THIS WAY


!


SNAP


MY SHADOW POSSESSION'S REACHED ITS LIMIT...
SSSS...


WHAT ARE THOSE?!
WHY ISN'T HE DEAD?!
WHO KNOWS... ALL I CAN DO NOW... WHEN IT COMES TO THESE TWO... IS JUST BE READY FOR ANYTHING...


FINALLY! I CAN MOVE AGAIN...
CRACK
CRACK


UNNH...
WHAT ARE THOSE?

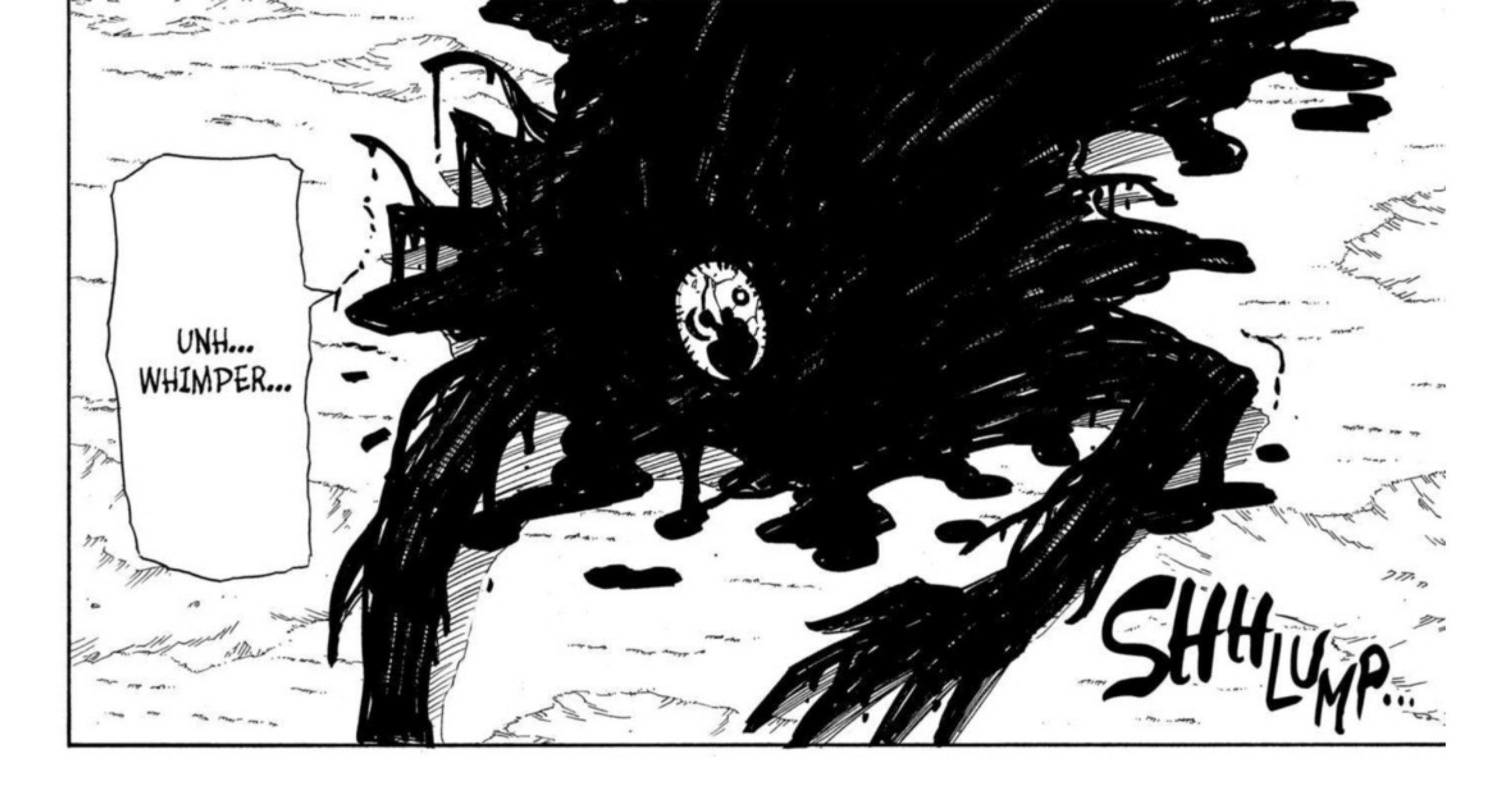

NOW, KAKUZU... LET THE SLAUGHTER BEGIN!


LORD JASHIN, BEHOLD!
I GIVE MYSELF, BODY AND SOUL, TO THE CARNAGE THAT IS TO COME!
IN YOUR NAME, I WILL RIP THEIR INSIDES OUT AND SHRED THEIR ENTRAILS!

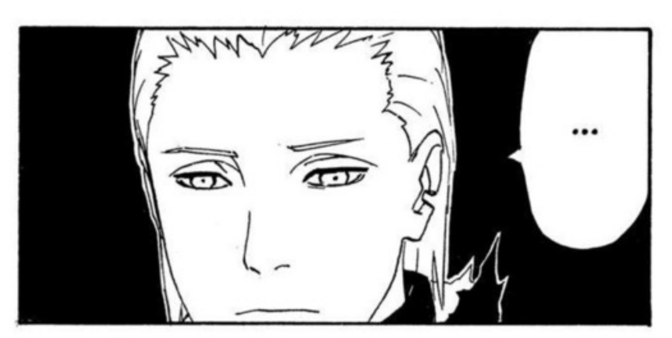

WHAT ARE THOSE?! THEIR CHAKRA FEELS REALLY NASTY.


RRRROAR!!

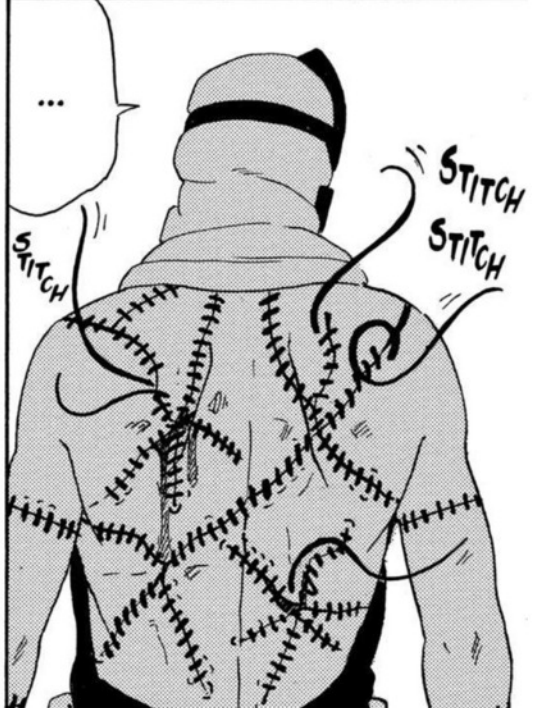

BE CARE-FUL, CHOJI!
YUP!

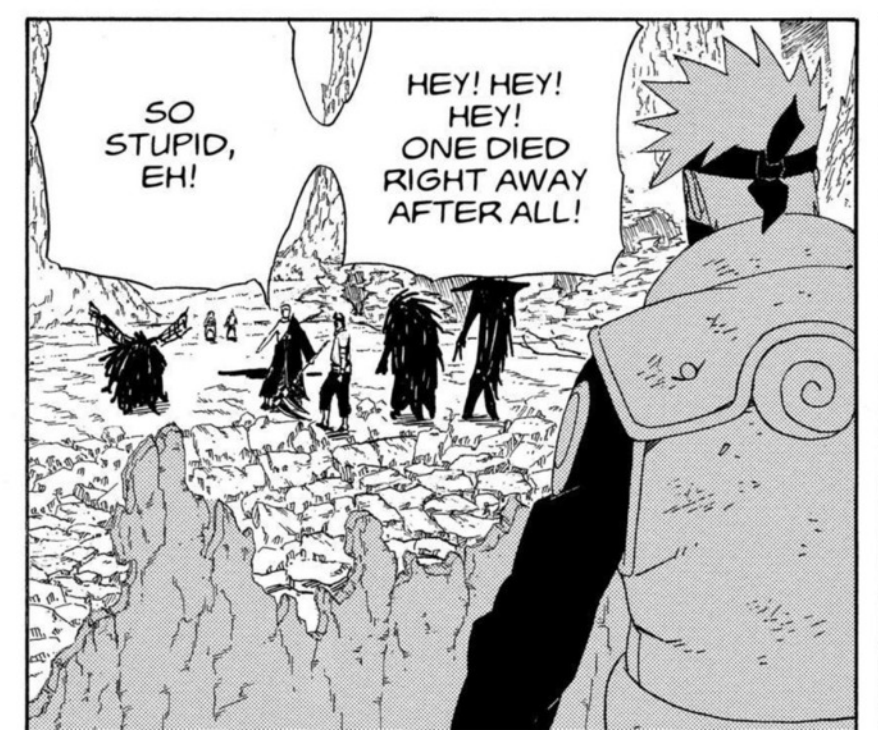

UNH... WHIMPER...
SHHLUMP...


SPLAT...


...


WHAT THE...?


...
STITCH
STITCH
STITCH


HEY! HEY! HEY! ONE DIED RIGHT AWAY AFTER ALL!
SO STUPID, EH!


READ THIS WAY

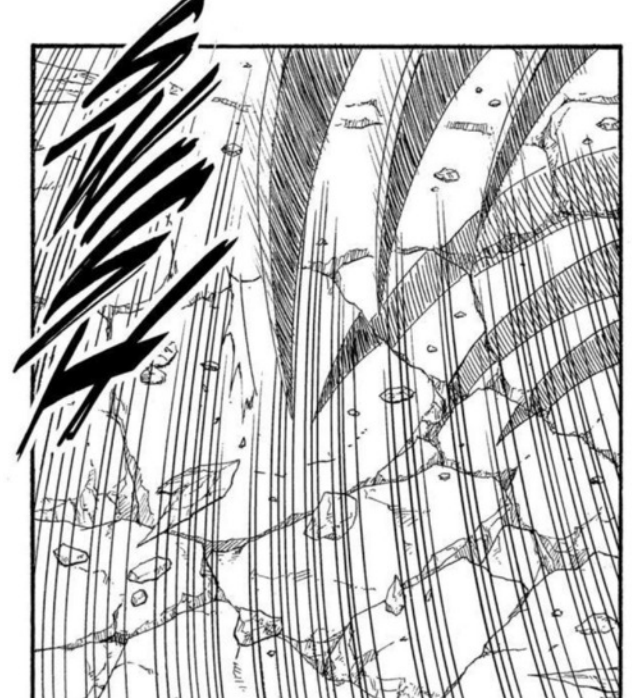

...ONE OF THE MASKS THAT EMERGED FROM HIS BODY COL-LAPSED...
...THAT MUST BE THE ONE I GOT WITH MY LIGHTNING BLADE JUST NOW...


HIDAN, STAY BACK. I GOT THIS.
NO WAY! I WANT IN ON THIS ACTION...


...SO LET'S JUST GO WITH "THE USUAL."


HUMPH.
FWP


SHHF...!

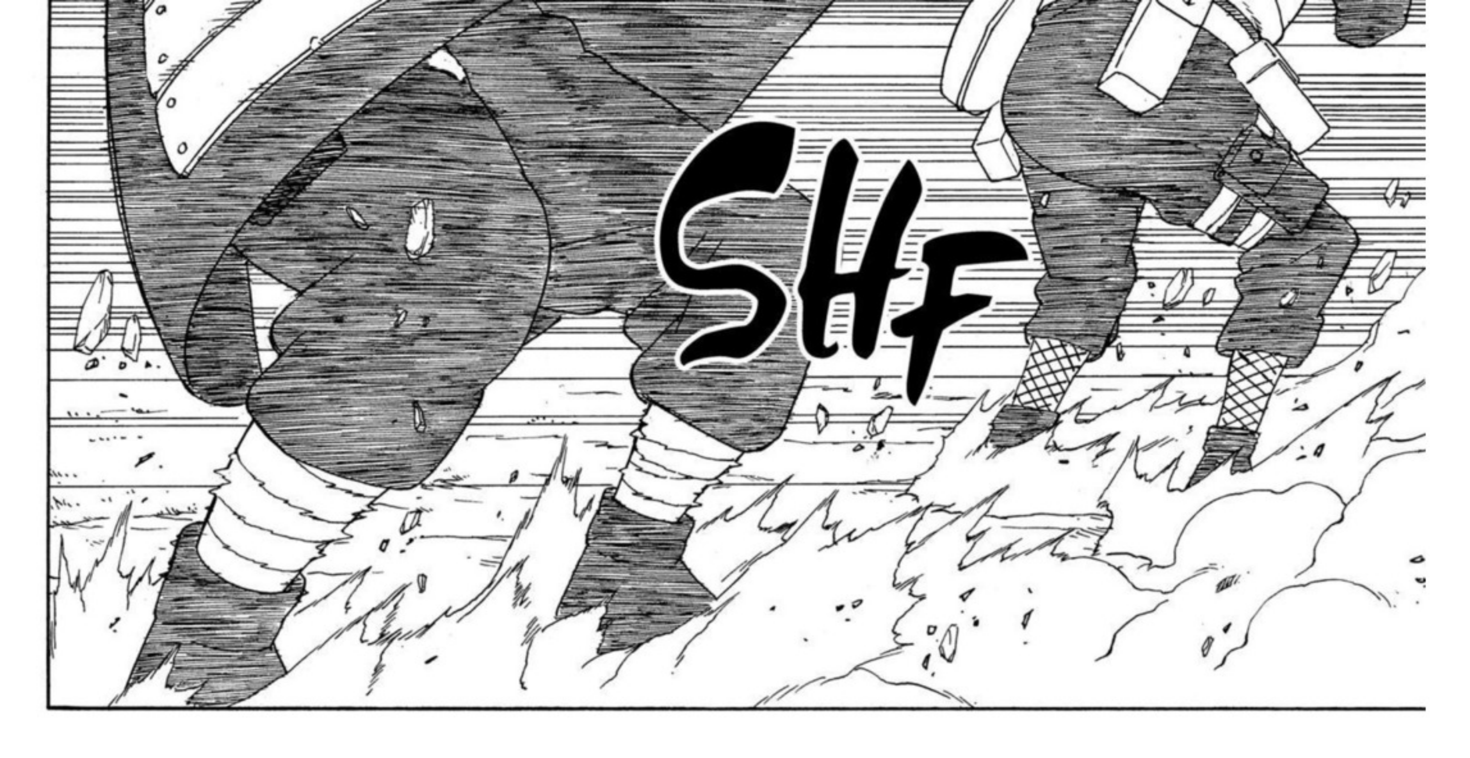


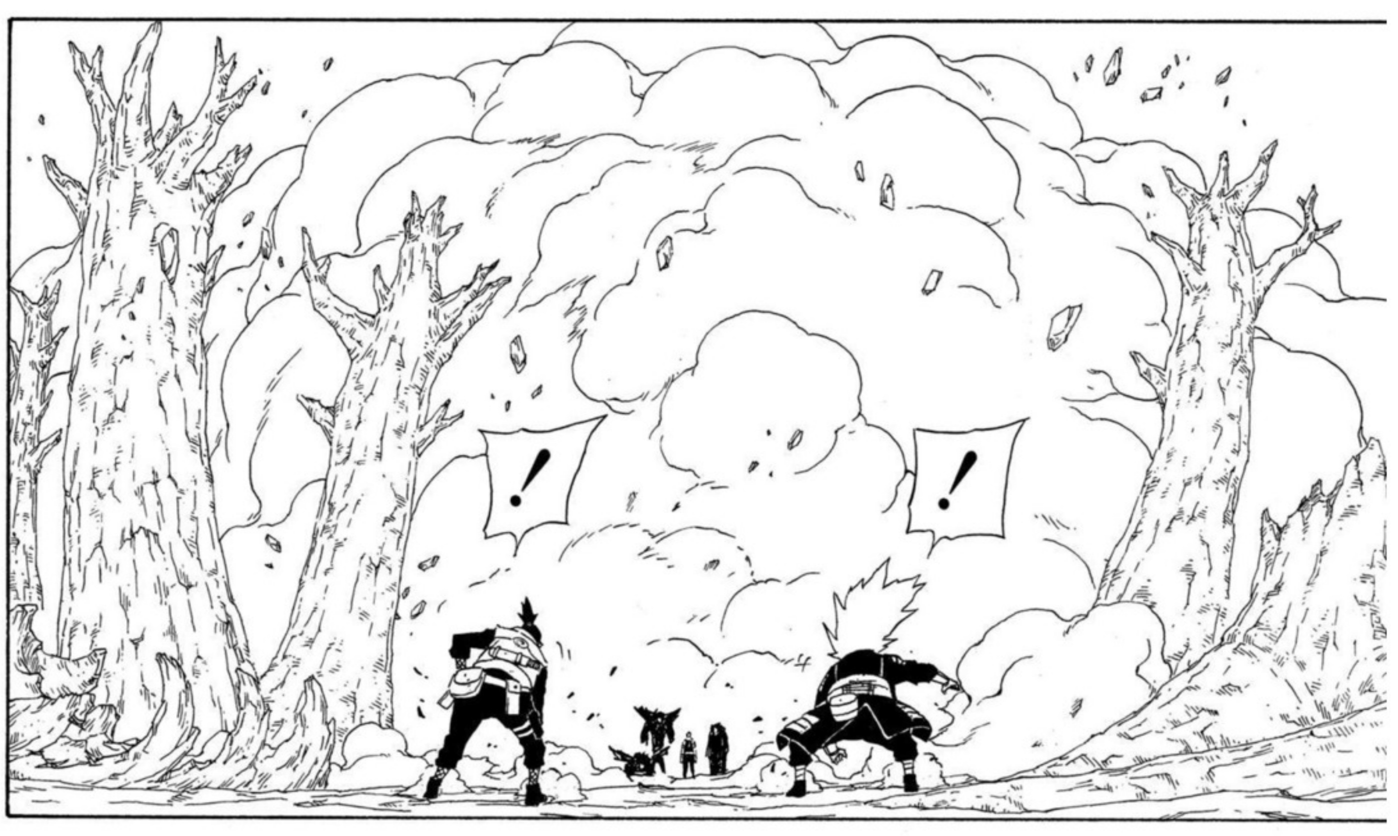
KACHINGG
KACHINGG
!!
WHSS...
WHOOMMM
WIND STYLE! PRESSURE DAMAGE!!

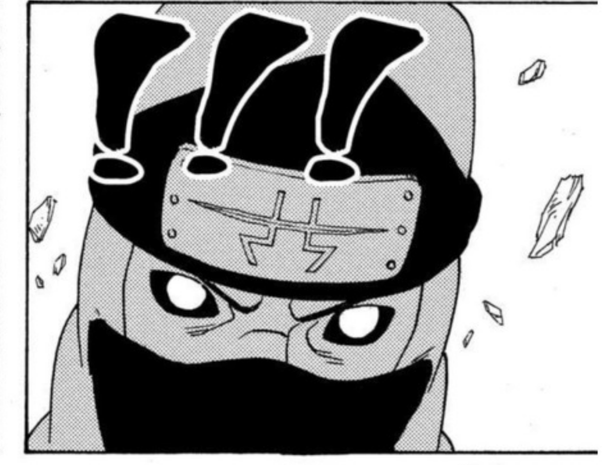

OH...! HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF HIS PARTNER'S IMMORTAL-ITY...!!


HE SHOT RIGHT THROUGH HIS OWN TEAM-MATE?! WHY...? UNLESS...


MASTER KAKASHI!
GAH!


SHF


!
!


!!!


WE'RE NEXT, CHOJI!
ULP!



CRACKLE

CRACKLE

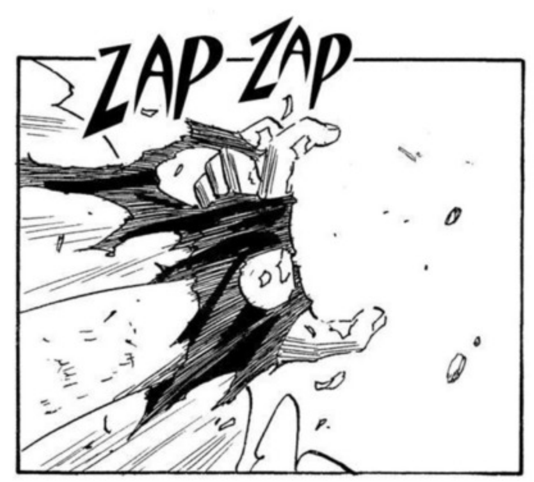
CHOJI! SHIKAMARU! RUN!!

!!

LIGHTNING STYLE! FALSE DARKNESS!!

LIGHTNING BLADE!!

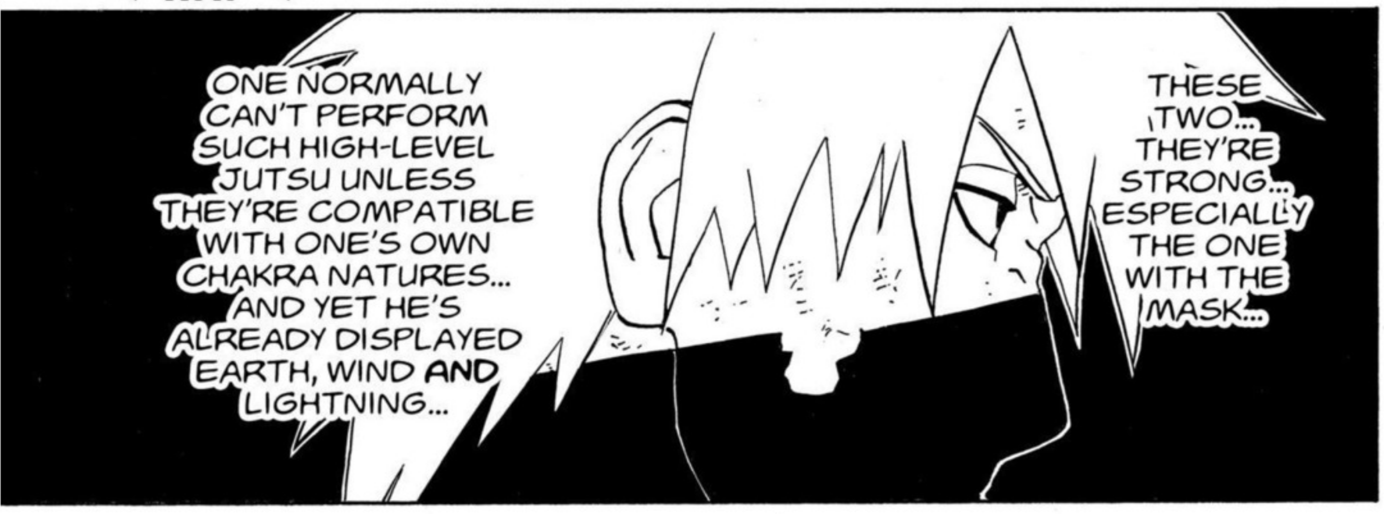






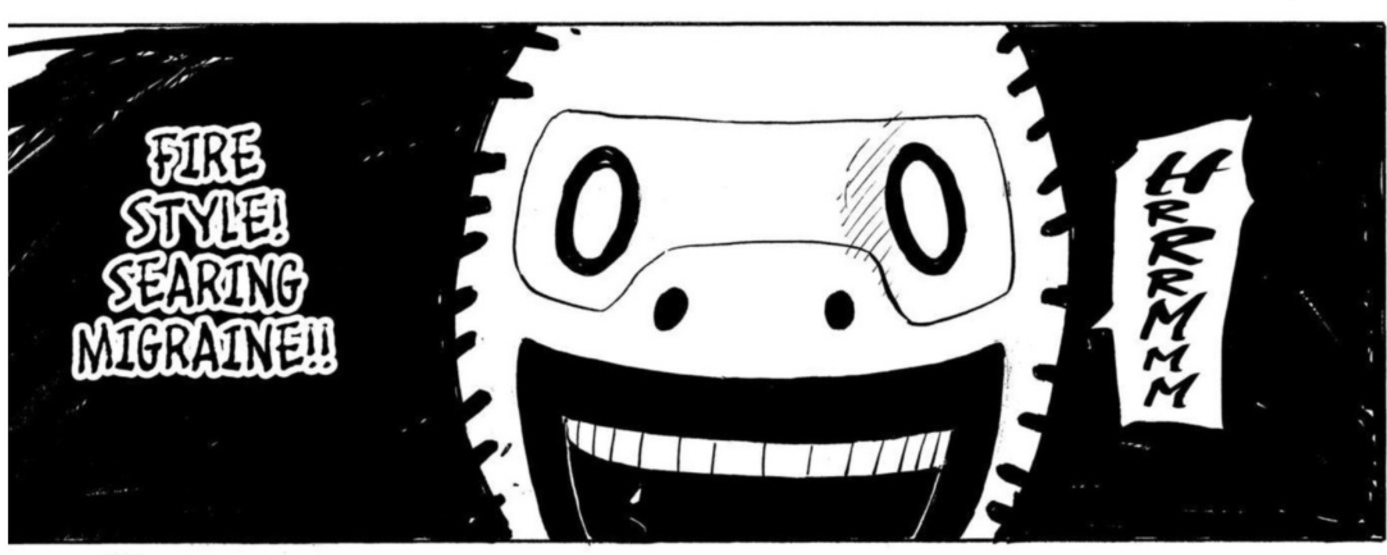



READ THIS WAY


THESE TWO... THEY'RE STRONG... ESPECIALLY THE ONE WITH THE MASK...
ONE NORMALLY CAN'T PERFORM SUCH HIGH-LEVEL JUTSU UNLESS THEY'RE COMPATIBLE WITH ONE'S OWN CHAKRA NATURES... AND YET HE'S ALREADY DISPLAYED EARTH, WIND AND LIGHTNING...


MASTER, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
WELL... I'M STILL STAND-ING...
KRUNCH


YOU'RE THE FIRST TO HAVE SURVIVED THIS ROUTINE... HATAKE... KAKASHI.
YOU SAW THROUGH THE JUTSU WITH YOUR SHARINGAN...
...WELL THEN, WHAT ABOUT THIS NEXT ONE?
KRUNCH


HRRRMMM
FIRE STYLE! SEARING MIGRAINE!!


NARUTO



Number 335: The Fearsome Secret!!

FWOOSH

!!

WHAT?! FIRE STYLE TOO?!

!

!

!

THA-WHOOOSH

Number 335: The Fearsome Secret!!







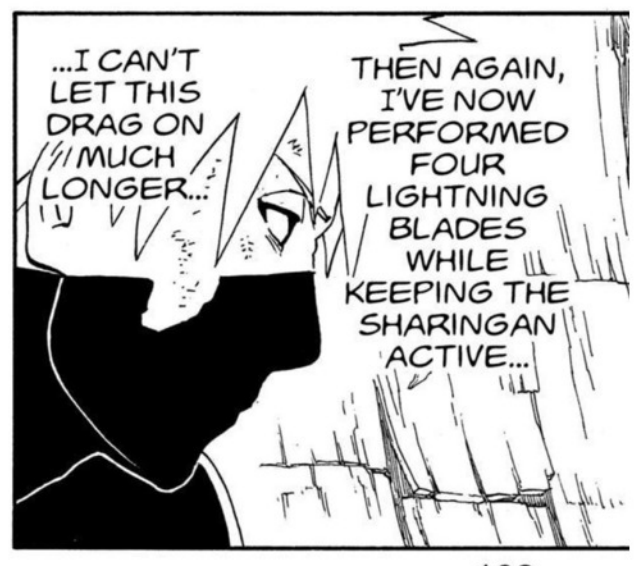


WHSSH
!
SHING
KACHINGG
KLANG
KLINK
KAKLI
LINK


SHF
YOU REALLY ARE GOOD...


SHF...


WHSSH
YEAH ...
WHSSH
MASTER KAKASHI, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?!
KRUNCH


THEN AGAIN, I'VE NOW PERFORMED FOUR LIGHTNING BLADES WHILE KEEPING THE SHARINGAN ACTIVE...
...I CAN'T LET THIS DRAG ON MUCH LONGER...


...


THEIR TEAM-WORK... SO SMOOTH... SEAM-LESS...


READ THIS WAY

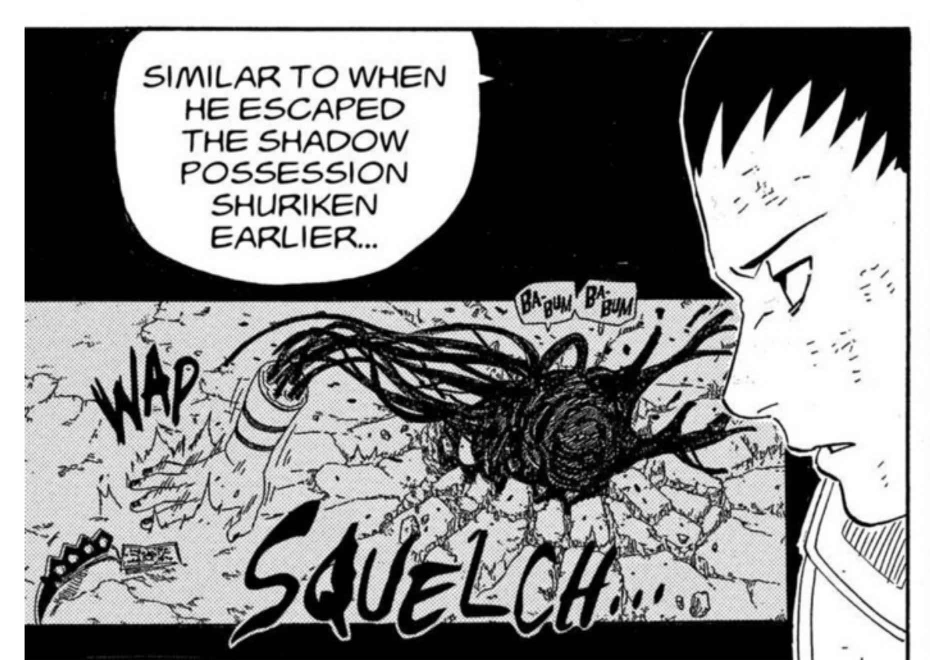

I KNOW MASTER KAKASHI'S LIGHTNING BLADE WAS RIGHT ON TARGET...
...HOW IS THAT GUY NOT DEAD YET?!




I DE-STROYED HIS HEART.
THAT SHOULD'VE KILLED HIM...


HOWEVER... IT SEEMS I MERELY TOOK DOWN ONE OF THE MON-STERS THAT EMERGED FROM HIS BODY.


I SUSPECT IT DIED IN HIS PLACE...
SPLAT...


SIMILAR TO WHEN HE ESCAPED THE SHADOW POSSESSION SHURIKEN EARLIER...
BA-BUM BA-BUM
WAP
SQUELCH...


...WHICH MEANS WHAT?


IT WAS AS IF THE ARM HE DETACHED FROM HIMSELF POSSESSED ITS OWN BEATING HEART...
...THAT ALLOWED IT TO MOVE AUTONOMOUSLY.
SWIRL
BA-BUM
BA-BUM


...


I SUSPECT THAT EACH OF THOSE MONSTERS THAT EMERGED...
...NOT TO MENTION **THAT MASK GUY** HIMSELF, ALL HAVE SEPARATE HEARTS.
AND YET ALL OF THE HEARTS ARE HIS TOO.


WHICH MEANS HE STARTED OUT WITH FIVE HEARTS.

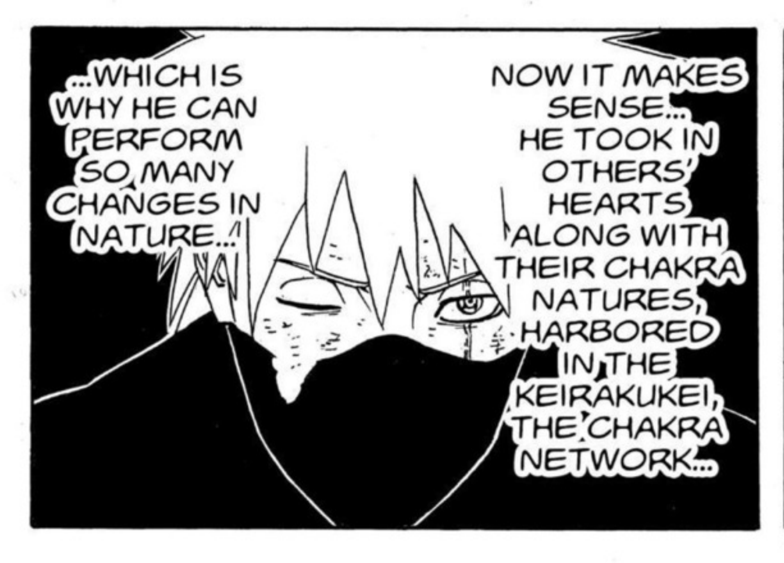

FIVE...?? BUT THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE...
ALTHOUGH HE'S DOWN ONE NOW THANKS TO MASTER KAKASHI'S LIGHTNING BLADE.


READ
THIS
WAY


YOU MEAN, IN ORDER TO TAKE HIM DOWN PERMANENTLY...
...WE NEED TO DESTROY FOUR MORE HEARTS?
APPAR-ENTLY...


GOOD EYE, AGAIN.
EACH OF THESE HEARTS BELONGS TO A SHINOBI THAT I BATTLED AND GOT THE BEST OF.
DESTROY ONE, AND I WILL SIMPLY REPLENISH IT WITH ANOTHER.


WITH YOUR HEARTS, FOR EXAMPLE.


NOW IT MAKES SENSE... HE TOOK IN OTHERS' HEARTS ALONG WITH THEIR CHAKRA NATURES, HARBORED IN THE KEIRAKUKEI, THE CHAKRA NETWORK...
...WHICH IS WHY HE CAN PERFORM SO MANY CHANGES IN NATURE...!


DON'T UNDER-ESTIMATE US, THE IMMORTAL DUO!
KRUNCH


SHIKA-MARU... WHAT NOW?


THE BEST WAY TO FIGHT THEM IS TO SEPARATE THEM.

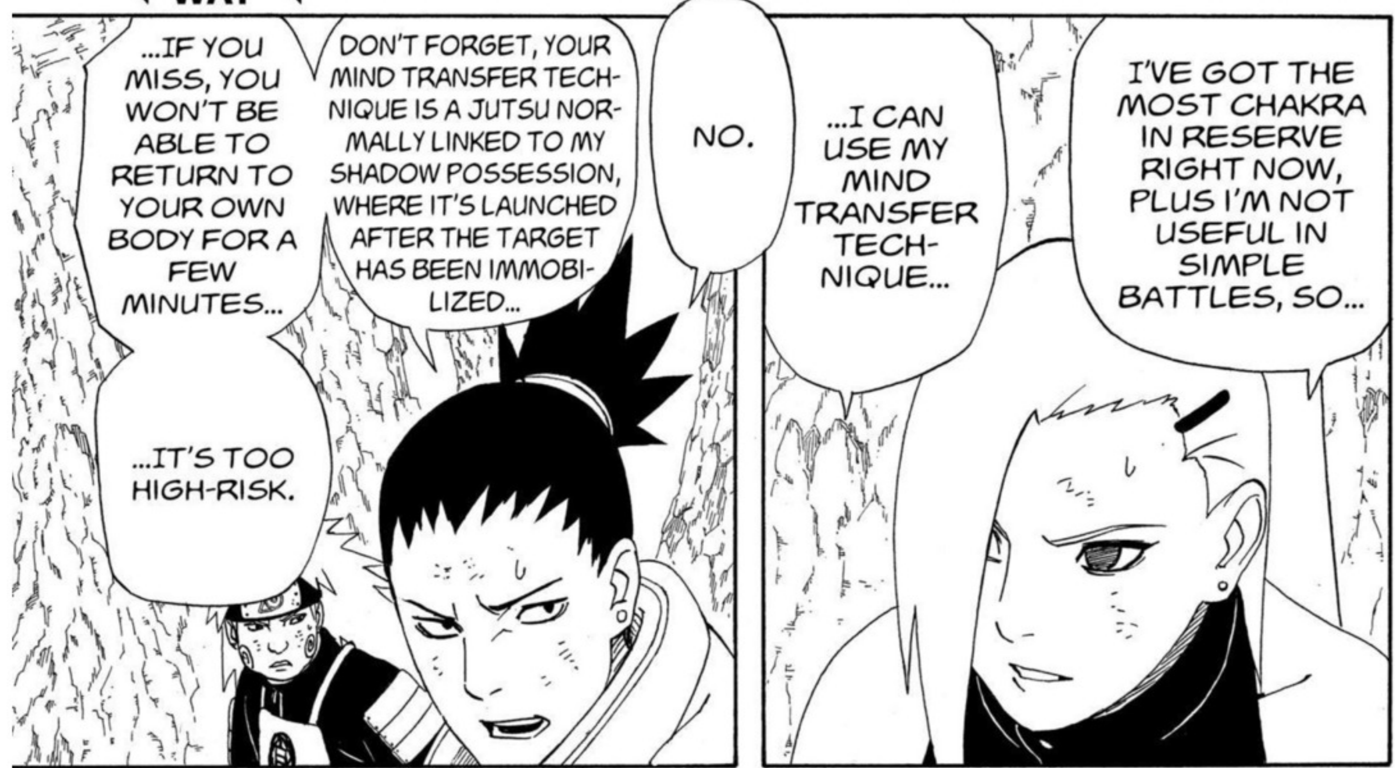

SO, FIRST WE DIVIDE AND CONQUER. FIGHT THEM SEPARATELY.
THEN, WE FOCUS ON THE ONE WE KNOW WE CAN DEFEAT BY KILLING FOUR MORE TIMES...


WHICH MEANS WE NEED SOMEONE TO STALL THAT HIDAN FELLOW...




I'LL DO IT.


READ THIS WAY


I'VE GOT THE MOST CHAKRA IN RESERVE RIGHT NOW, PLUS I'M NOT USEFUL IN SIMPLE BATTLES, SO...
...I CAN USE MY MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE...
NO.
DON'T FORGET, YOUR MIND TRANSFER TECHNIQUE IS A JUTSU NORMALLY LINKED TO MY SHADOW POSSESSION, WHERE IT'S LAUNCHED AFTER THE TARGET HAS BEEN IMMOBILIZED...
...IF YOU MISS, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN TO YOUR OWN BODY FOR A FEW MINUTES...
...IT'S TOO HIGH-RISK.


...


I'LL DO IT.
I'LL BIND HIM WITH SHADOW POSSESSION, THEN MOVE HIM OUT OF RANGE.


BUT THE QUESTION IS HOW WE'RE GOING TO TRAP HIM...
...WE STILL NEED SOME KIND OF DIVERSION.


ONE DIVERSION, COMING RIGHT UP...

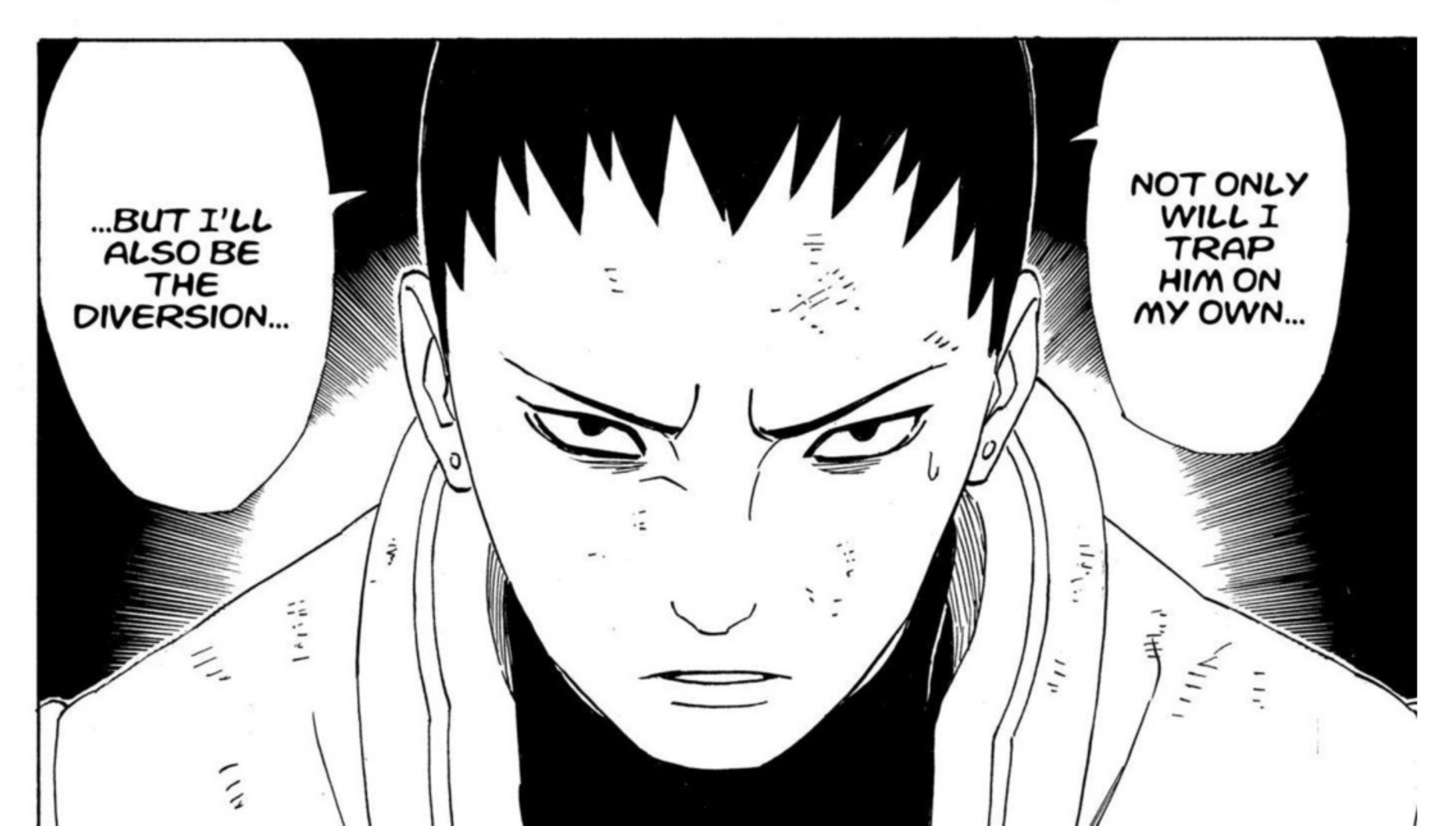

NIX ON THAT TOO.
IF HE SO MUCH AS SCRATCHES YOU AND CAPTURES YOUR BLOOD, IT'S ALL OVER.


WE CAN'T HOPE TO APPROACH AND ATTACK HIM FROM OUR SIDE.




CHOJI, YOU PRESERVE YOUR CHAKRA SO YOU CAN HELP MASTER KAKASHI DEFEAT THE MASK GUY.


WHAT ARE YOU ALL WHISPERING ABOUT?!
I'M ITCHING TO GET STARTED AGAIN!


NOT ONLY WILL I TRAP HIM ON MY OWN...
...BUT I'LL ALSO BE THE DIVERSION...


READ
THIS
WAY



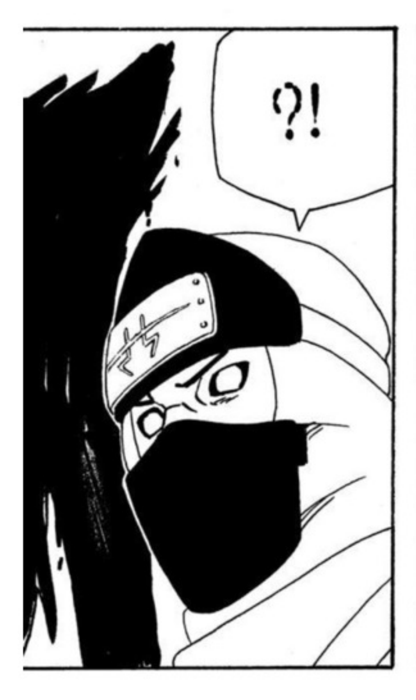





ALL RIGHT...
...LET'S LEAVE IT UP TO SHIKA-MARU.


SHIKA-MARU... HERE...
SHFF


... THANKS.


?!


SHOOSH



YOU SCARED OF MY SCYTHE AND ABILITIES?! EH?!!

A COVERT ATTACK FROM A DISTANCE?? TSK. TSK. HOW SHAMEFUL!

THAT AGAIN?!

ZWISH ZWISH

WHSSH WHSSH WHSSH

WHSSH WHSSH

THUMP

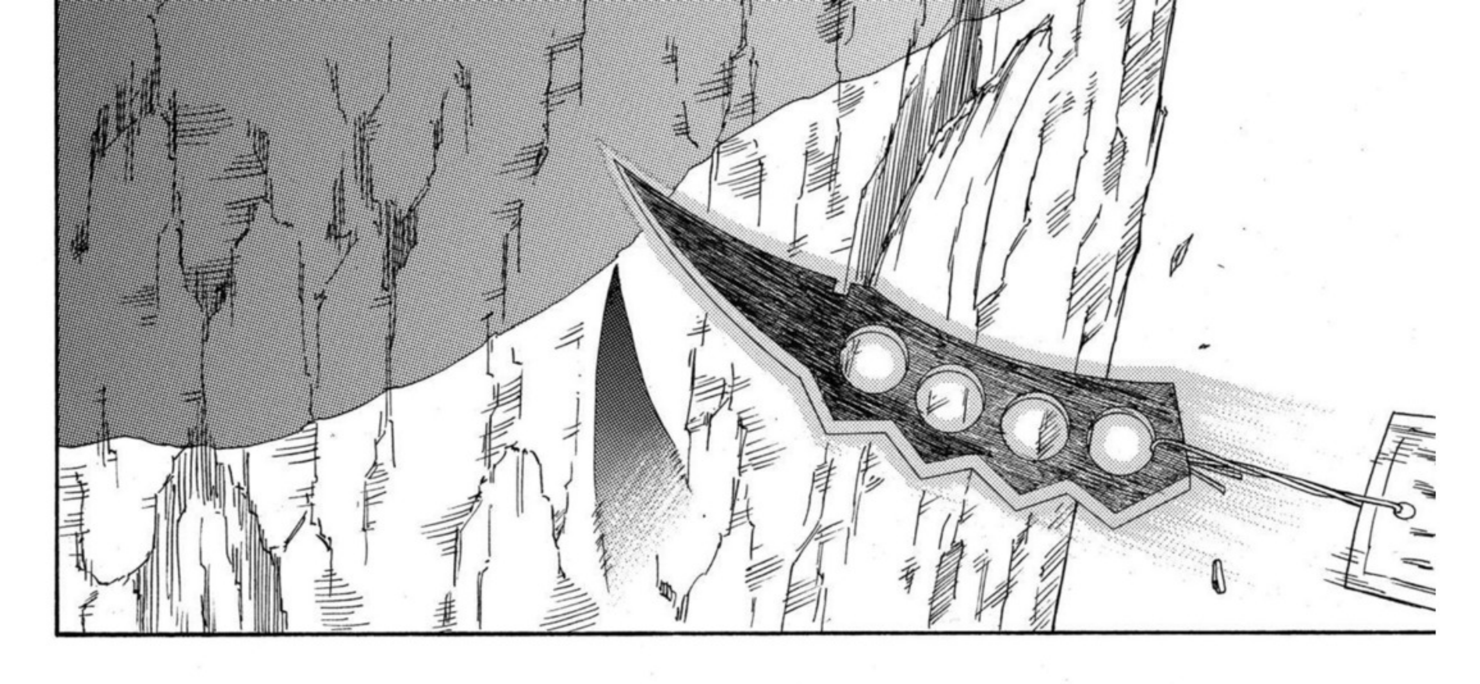
!

SHF





!
HUP
SHING
HE PICKED UP AND THREW THE BLADE WITH HIS SHADOW...!

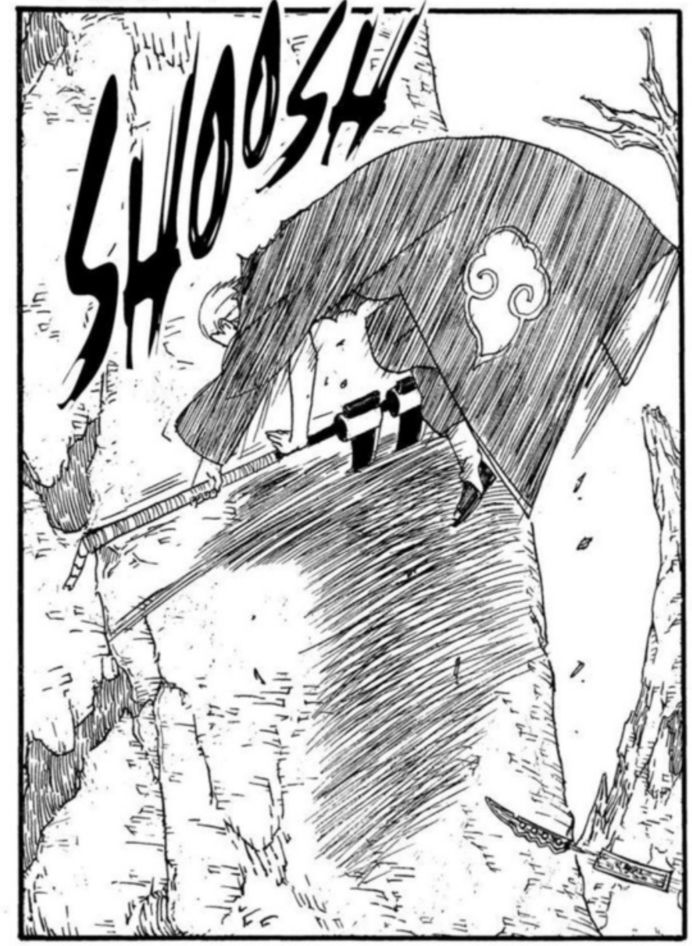



SHOOSH
THUNK

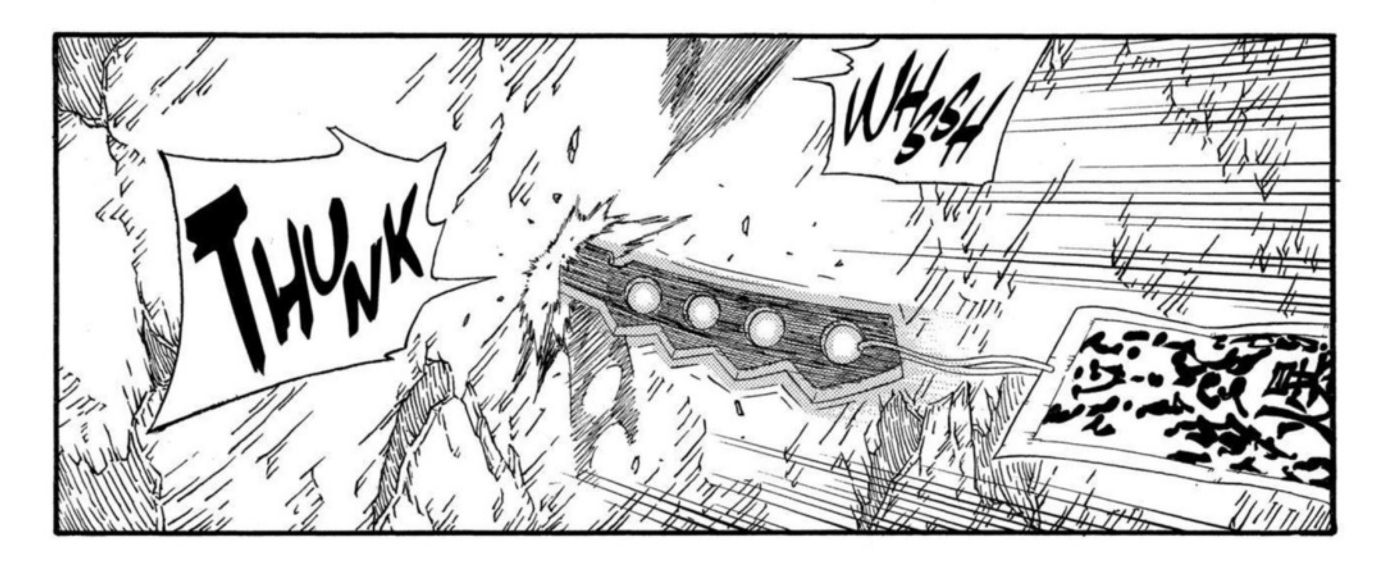

FAP
SHING
!


READ THIS WAY


IT'S HARDER TO MANEUVER IN MIDAIR...
...BUT HE GOT HIM!!


SHOOSH


THOCK


WHOSH
THUNK


!
!


HEH... YOU ALL ARE SO NAÏVE...
AS LONG AS YOU WATCH THE SHADOWS, THIS JUTSU IS USELESS!

!

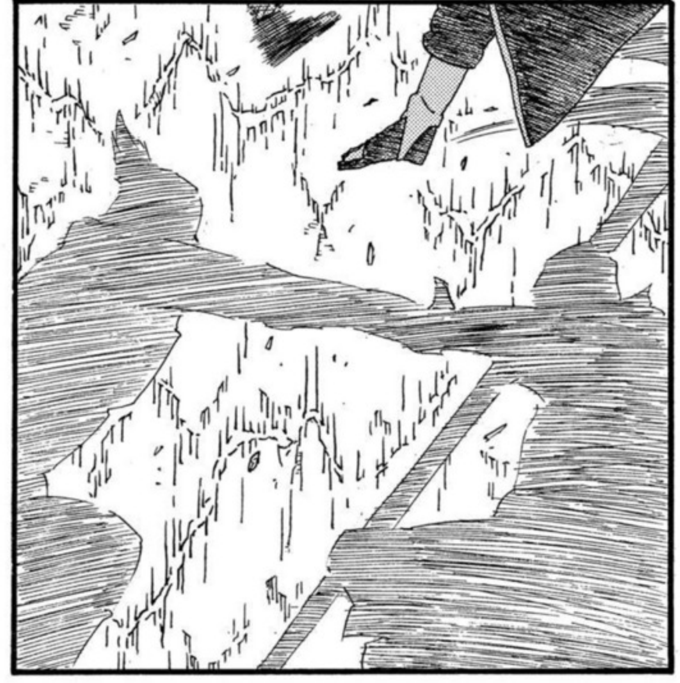

WHAT?!


READ THIS WAY


I DON'T JUST HIDE IN THE SHADOWS... I BECOME THEM!


CLONK


WHSSH
ROING



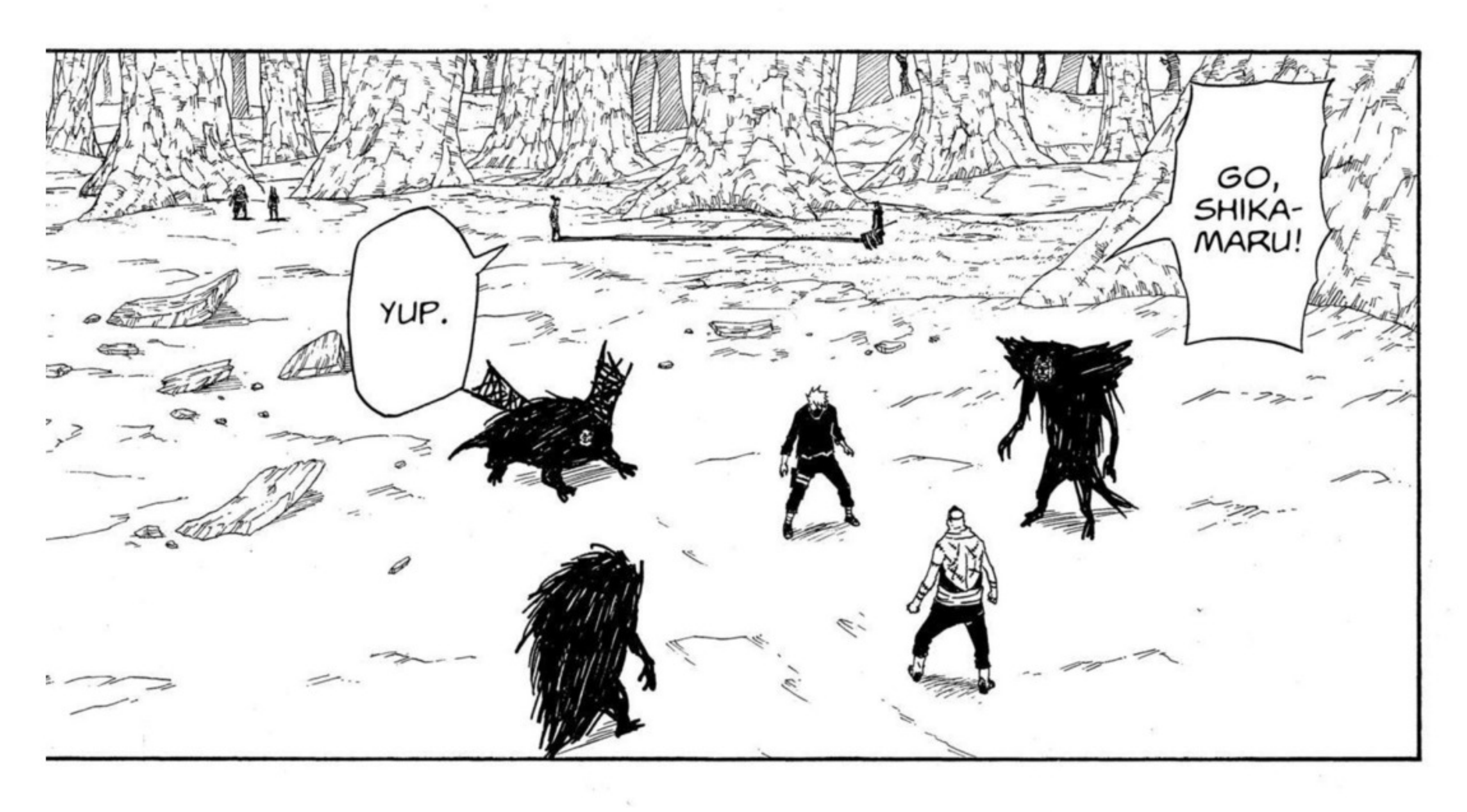

KRUNCH...
SHADOW POSSES-SION JUTSU... ACHIEVED!
KRUNCH...


NARUTO

Number 336: Turnabout Dilemma...!!







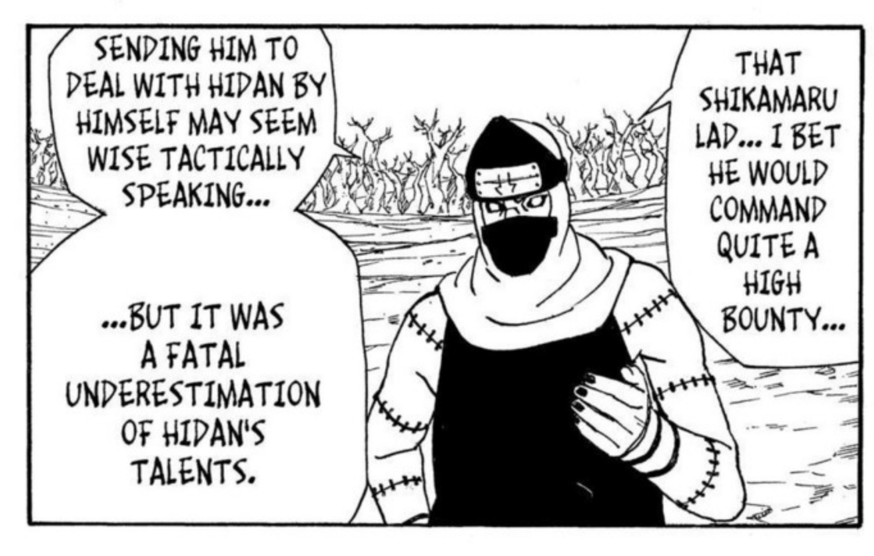


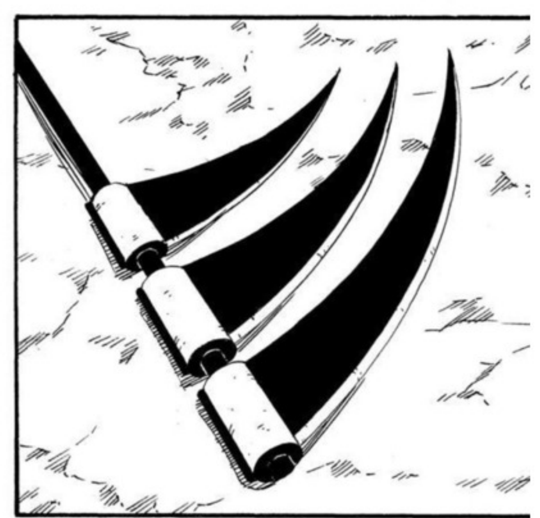





WHSSH
Number 336: Turnabout Dilemma...!!
WHSSH


YOU REALLY THINK YOU CAN DIVIDE AND CONQUER ME AND KAKUZU, EH!
KOOSH
LET'S JUST GO FOR A PLEASANT STROLL, SHALL WE.


THAT SHIKAMARU LAD... I BET HE WOULD COMMAND QUITE A HIGH BOUNTY...
SENDING HIM TO DEAL WITH HIDAN BY HIMSELF MAY SEEM WISE TACTICALLY SPEAKING...
...BUT IT WAS A FATAL UNDERESTIMATION OF HIDAN'S TALENTS.




READ
THIS
WAY


THAT BOY IS GOING TO DIE TODAY.


...


BUT YOU ALL ARE CORRECT...
I AM... STRONG...


...


THE GAP BETWEEN OUR RESPECTIVE BATTLE EXPERIENCES IS VAST...
SHFF


SSSSS
YOUR HEADBANDS...
...THEY REMIND ME OF THE VERY FIRST KONOHA SHINOBI I FOUGHT...


...

SWSSSH

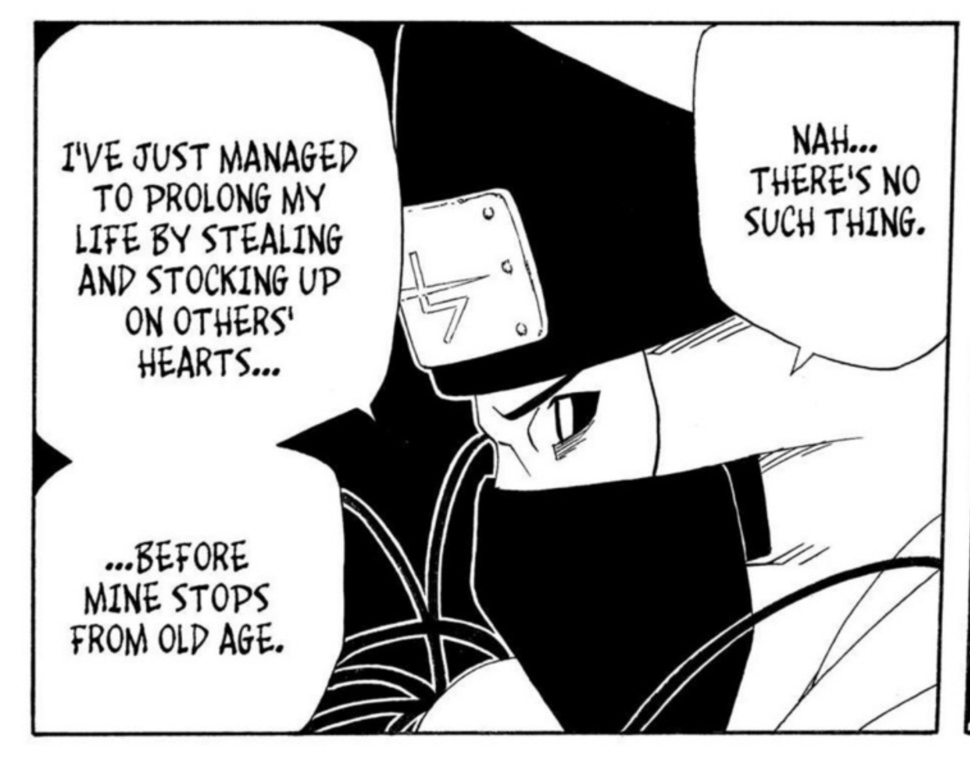
THE FIRST HOKAGE...





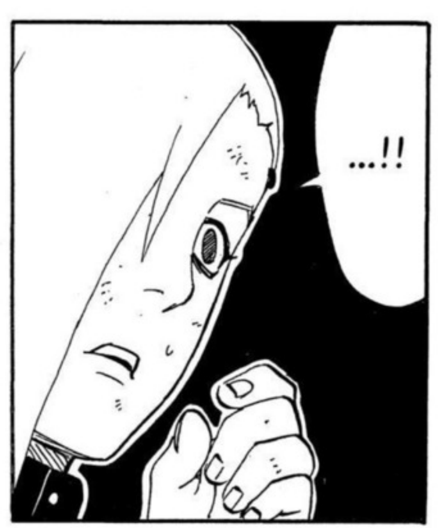






BY REMOVING IT WHILE THAT SHINOBI IS STILL ALIVE...




...!!


...I CAN STORE UP TO FIVE HEARTS AT ANY ONE TIME.
KAKASHI... YOURS SHALL REPLACE THE ONE YOU DESTROYED.

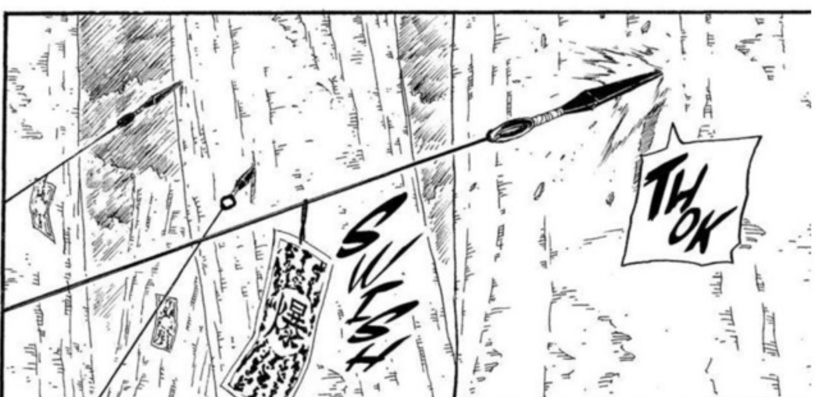

...!


SSSSS...





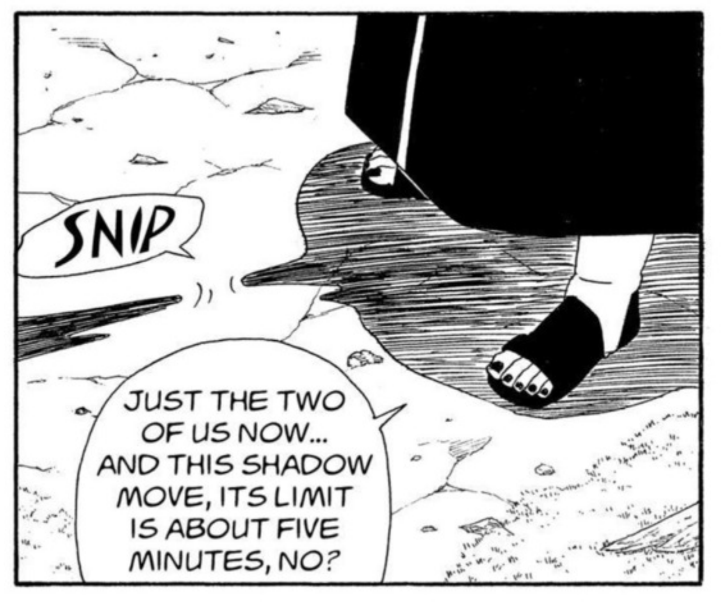




YOU REALLY DON'T WANT ME TO GET AWAY, EH...

... FEH!

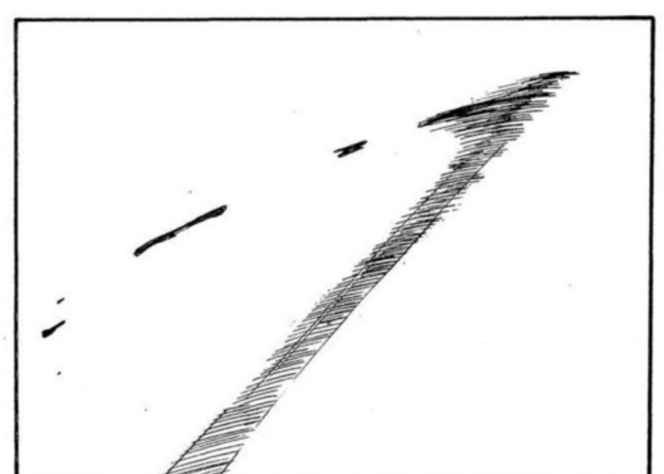






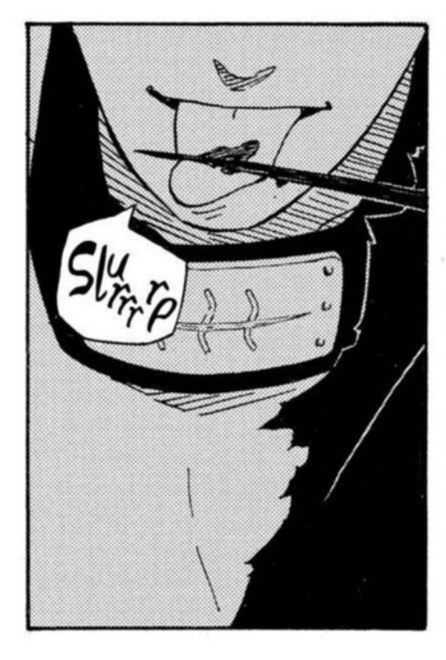
CHIKA
CHAK
WHSSH!
FOOL. THAT'S MORE THAN ENOUGH TIME FOR ME...
FWA
!!






THUD
AHH...




Slurrrp

VWHOOOSH...






SPLIP...
SPLAT
SPLAT
SQUELCH
SCRITCH...
THE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN SATISFIED...
THAP
SHHHFFF...
DIE!
SHING
!!


READ
THIS
WAY

KA-
SHOOM!!
MASTER KAKASHI!!

WATER STYLE, WATER WALL!!
WHOOSH
FIZZZZ
SPLORCH


GUESS WATER STYLE JUTSU ISN'T ENOUGH TO PUT OUT WIND-ENHANCED FIRE...!
THIP


WHOOSH

SSSSS

!!

ARGH!

THWAP

MASTER!!

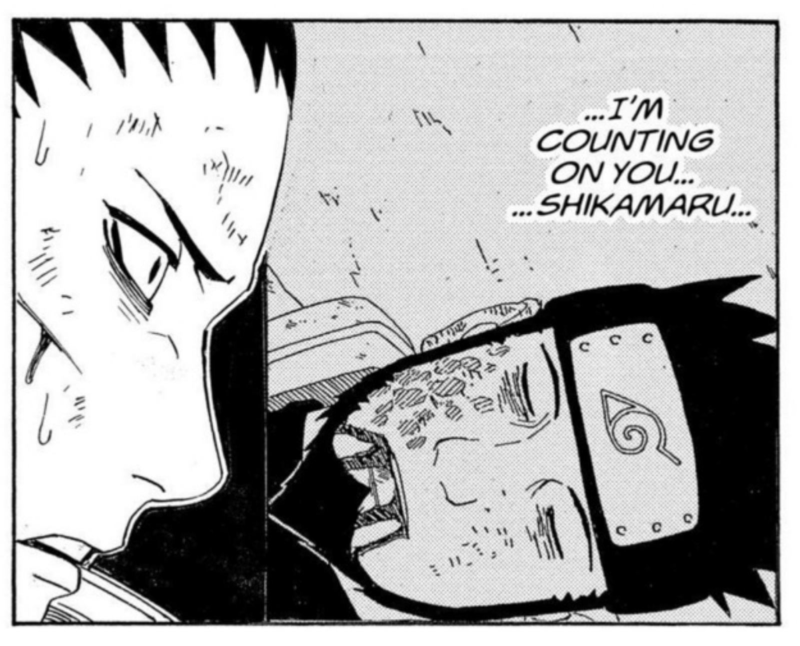




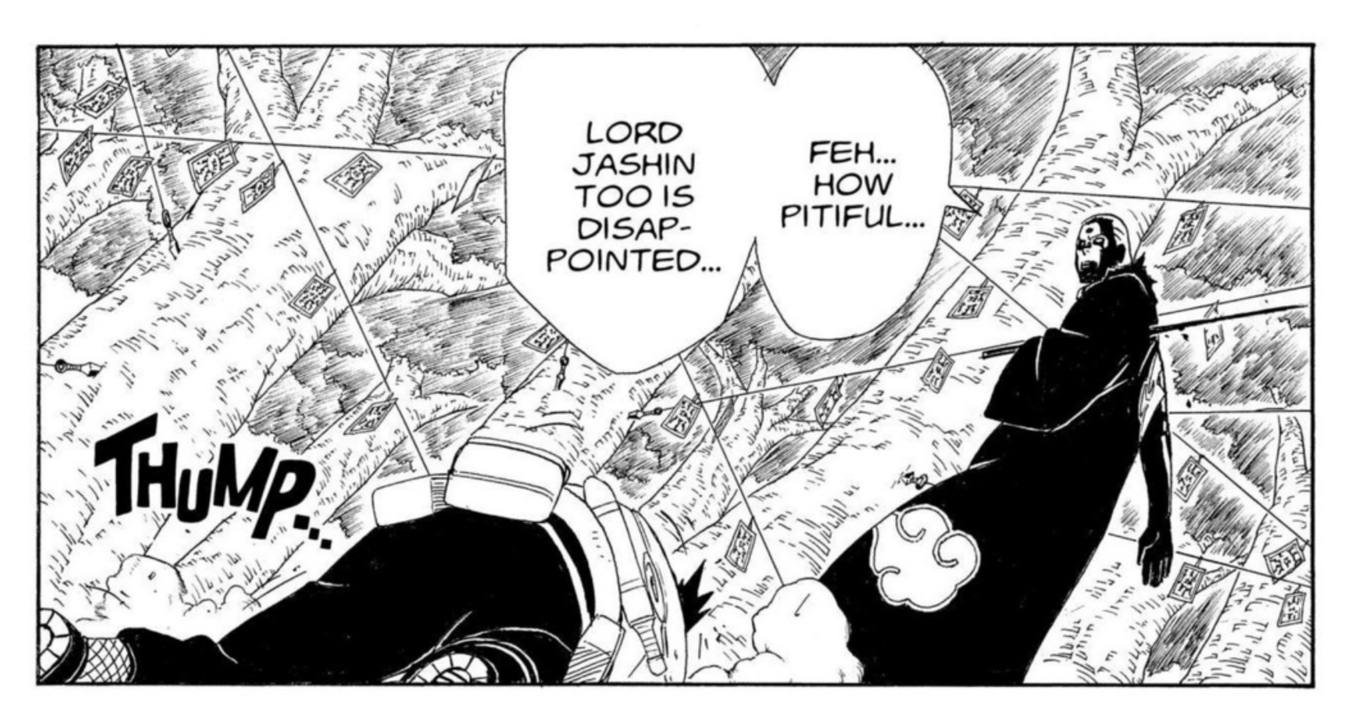





READ
THIS
WAY


...I'M
COUNTING
ON YOU...
...SHIKAMARU...


RRNNH...


FEH...
HOW
PITIFUL...
LORD
JASHIN
TOO IS
DISAP-
POINTED...
THUMP...


PLOP
PLOP


I WOULD
HOPE
KAKUZU'S
DONE ON
HIS END BY
NOW AS
WELL.



URRK...

D-DON'T TELL ME...

YES, THAT'S RIGHT ...

WE USED YOUR BLOOD.

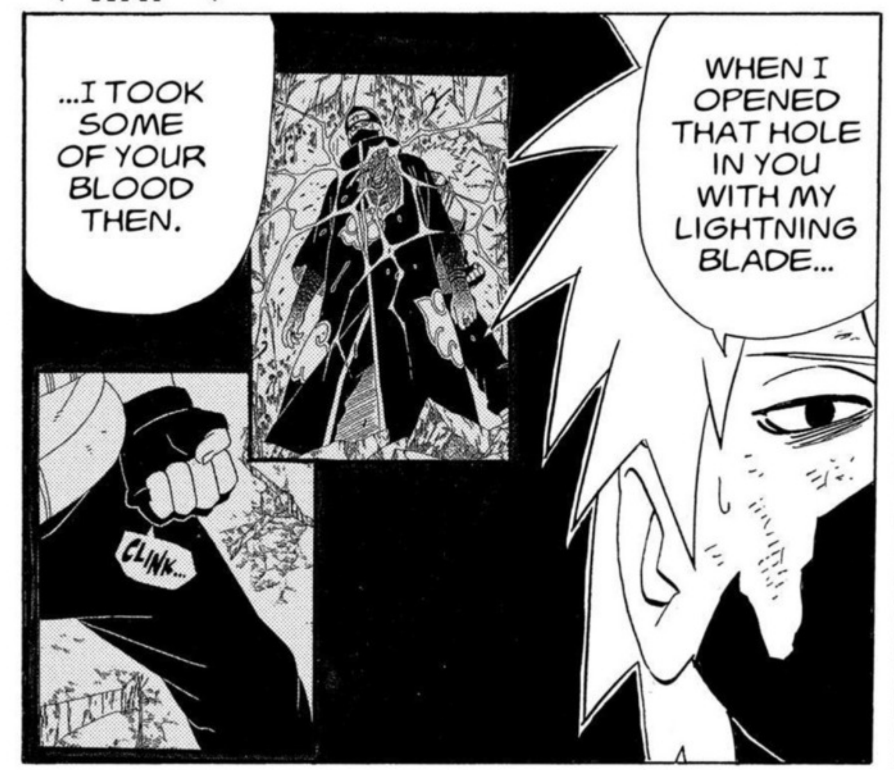
SHIKAMARU KNEW YOUR PARTNER HAS THE ABILITY TO USE OTHERS' BLOOD.

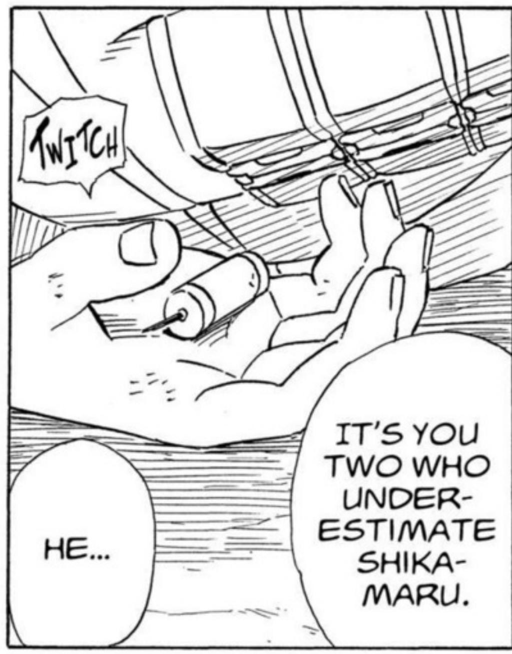
SO HE HAD BLOOD-STORING CAPSULES PREPARED AHEAD OF TIME.

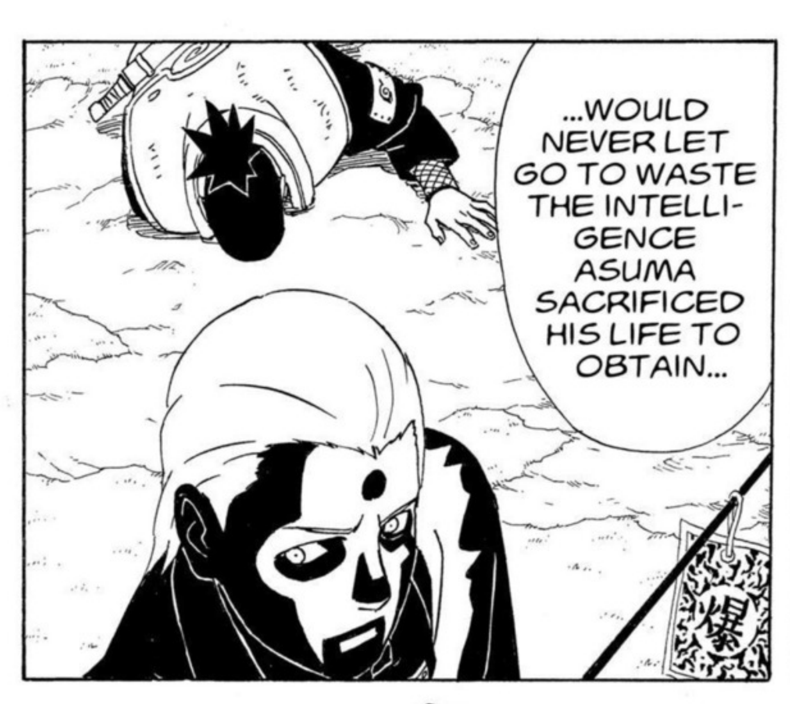
SO... PLEASE USE THIS WHEN YOU GET THE CHANCE. HOLD ON TO IT UNTIL THEN.


READ
THIS
WAY


NO WAY...
BUT WHEN DID YOU...


WHEN I OPENED THAT HOLE IN YOU WITH MY LIGHTNING BLADE...
...I TOOK SOME OF YOUR BLOOD THEN.
CLINK...


TWITCH
IT'S YOU TWO WHO UNDER-ESTIMATE SHIKA-MARU.
HE...

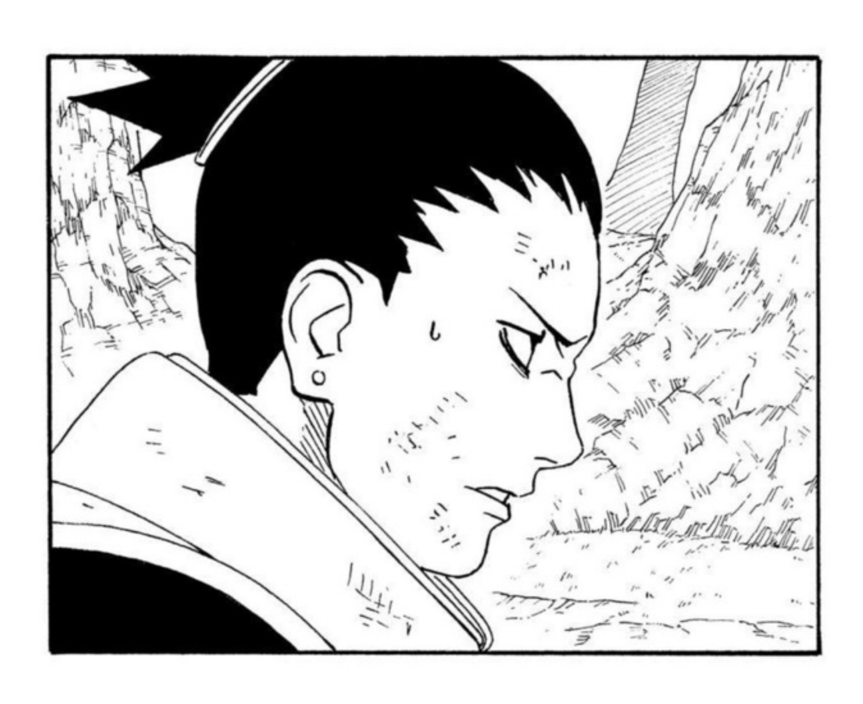

...WOULD NEVER LET GO TO WASTE THE INTELLI-GENCE ASUMA SACRIFICED HIS LIFE TO OBTAIN...


!!!

Number 337: Shikamaru's Genius!!




NARUTO



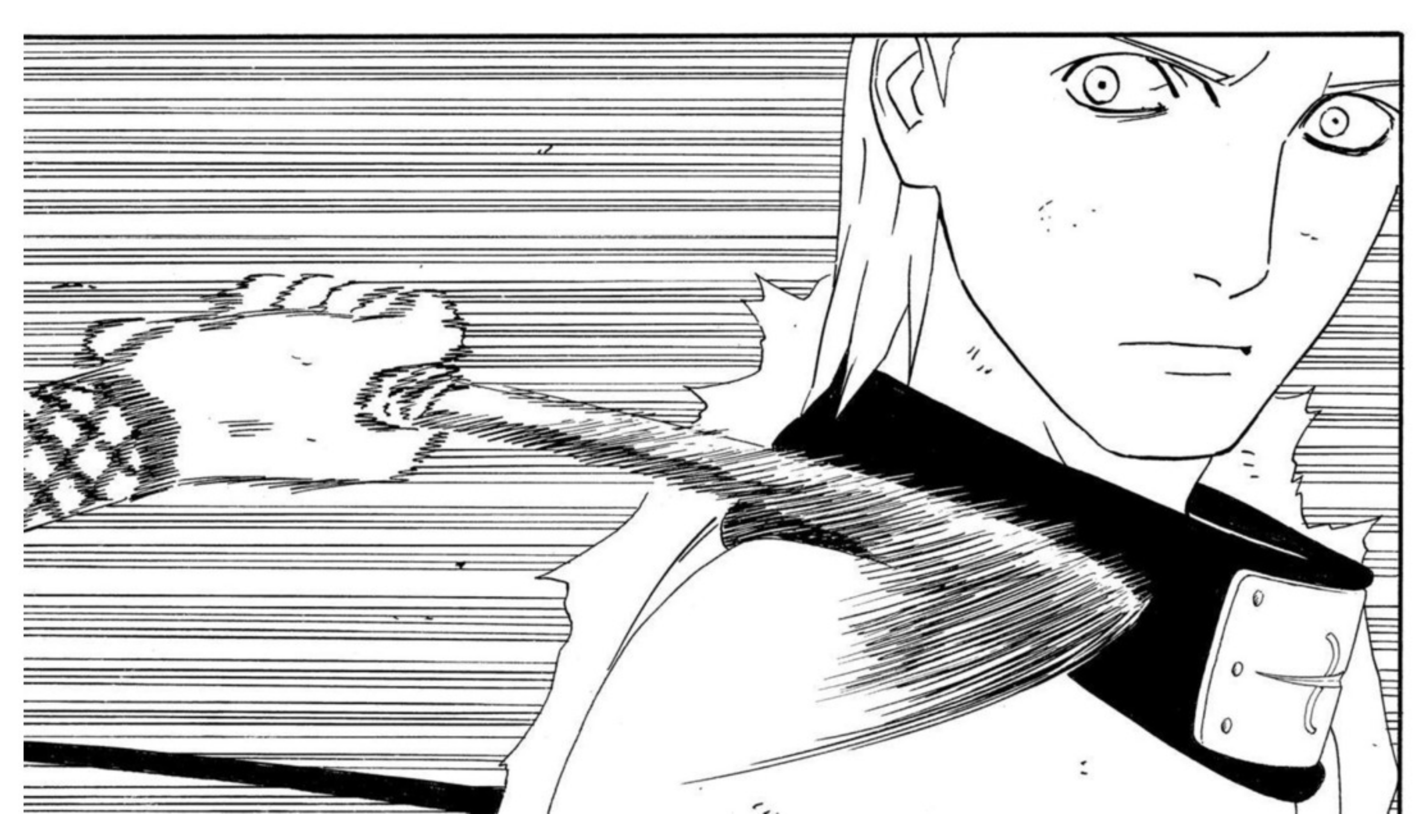

READ
THIS
WAY




SHOON


GUESS I OUGHT TO GET GOING ...


HMM?!




SLA
SH
CRASH
CLATTER
SPURT


READ
THIS
WAY


TOO
SHAL-
LOW...!


FWP


SLIP


SWOOOOSH
!

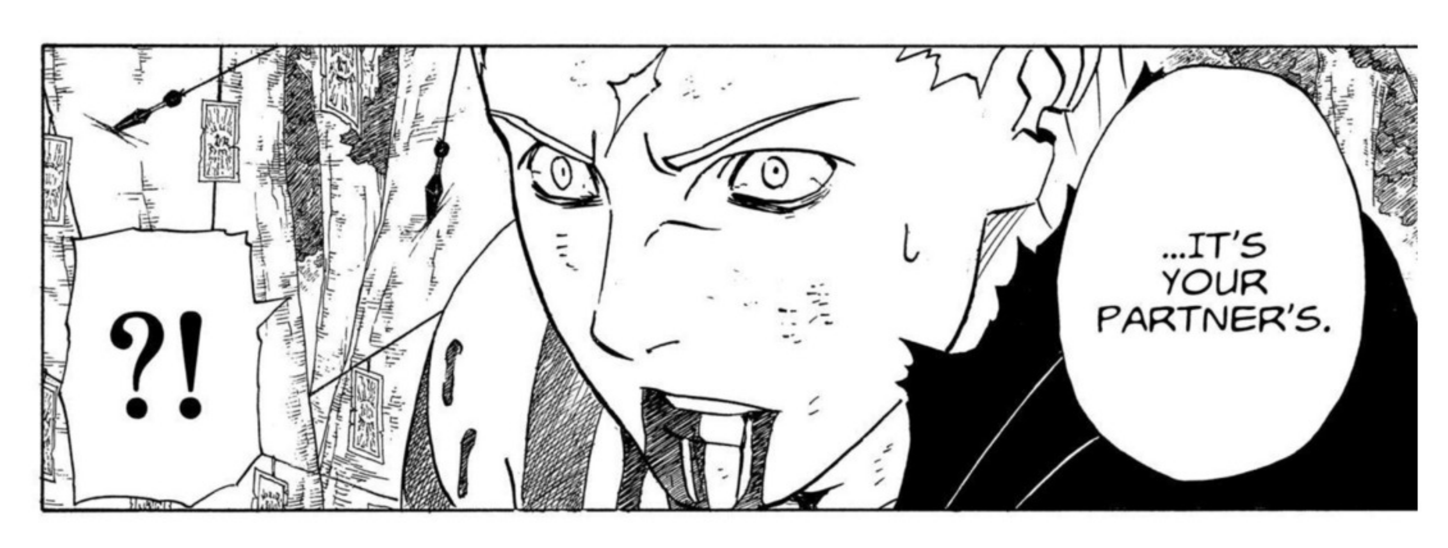

HUF
HUF

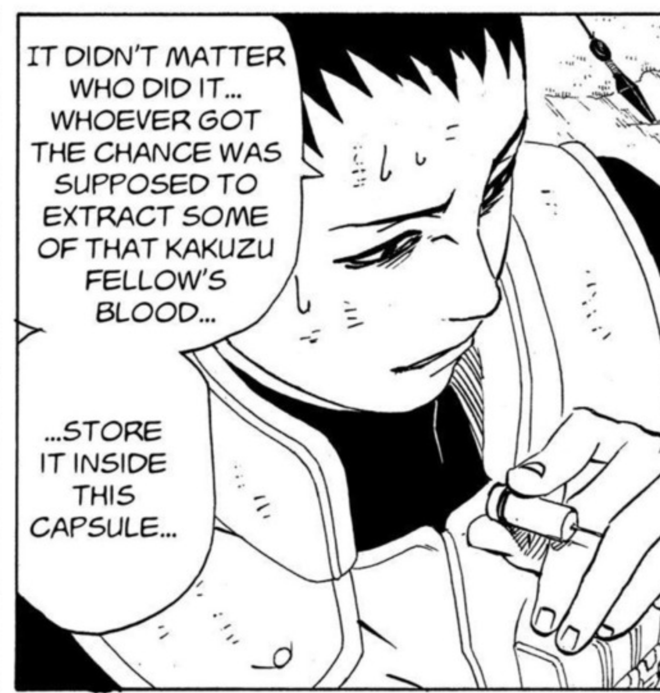

...YOU...
HOW
COME...
YOU'RE
STILL
ALIVE
...?


I JUST PRE-
TENDED LIKE YOU HAD GOTTEN ME...


SCRITCH

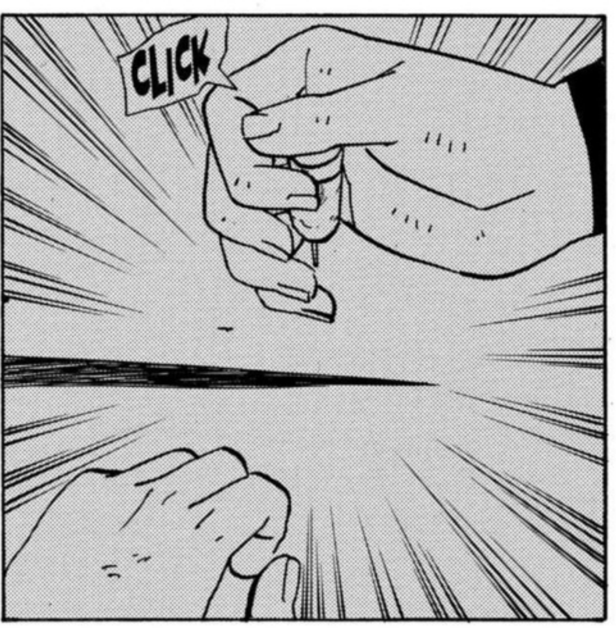

SEE, THE BLOOD ON YOUR WEAPON ISN'T MINE...

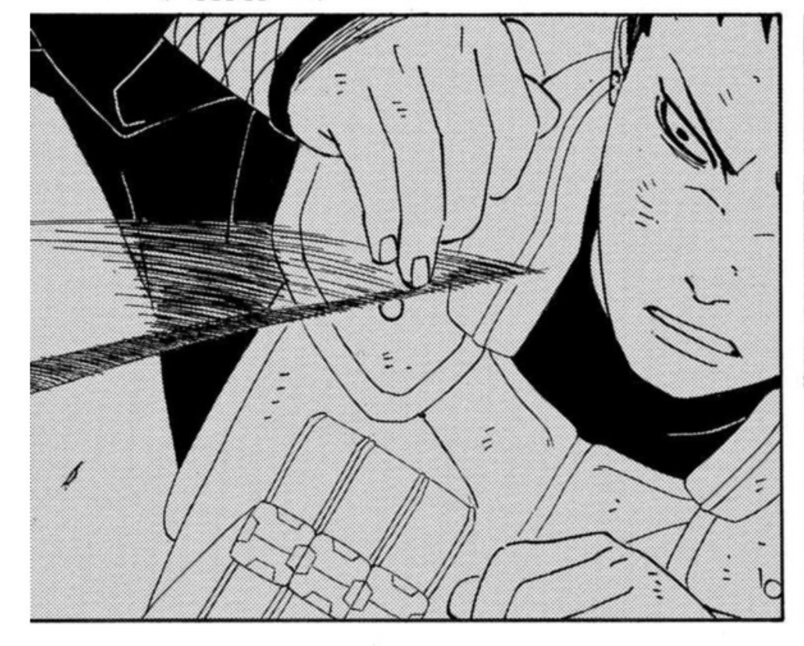

...IT'S YOUR PARTNER'S.
?!

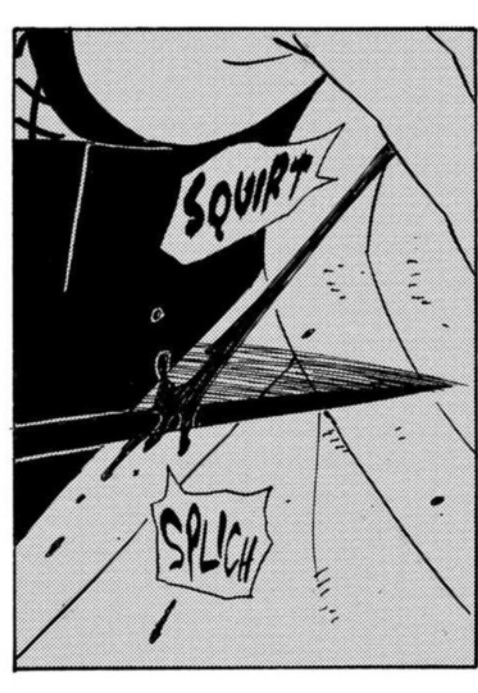

IT DIDN'T MATTER WHO DID IT... WHOEVER GOT THE CHANCE WAS SUPPOSED TO EXTRACT SOME OF THAT KAKUZU FELLOW'S BLOOD...
...STORE IT INSIDE THIS CAPSULE...

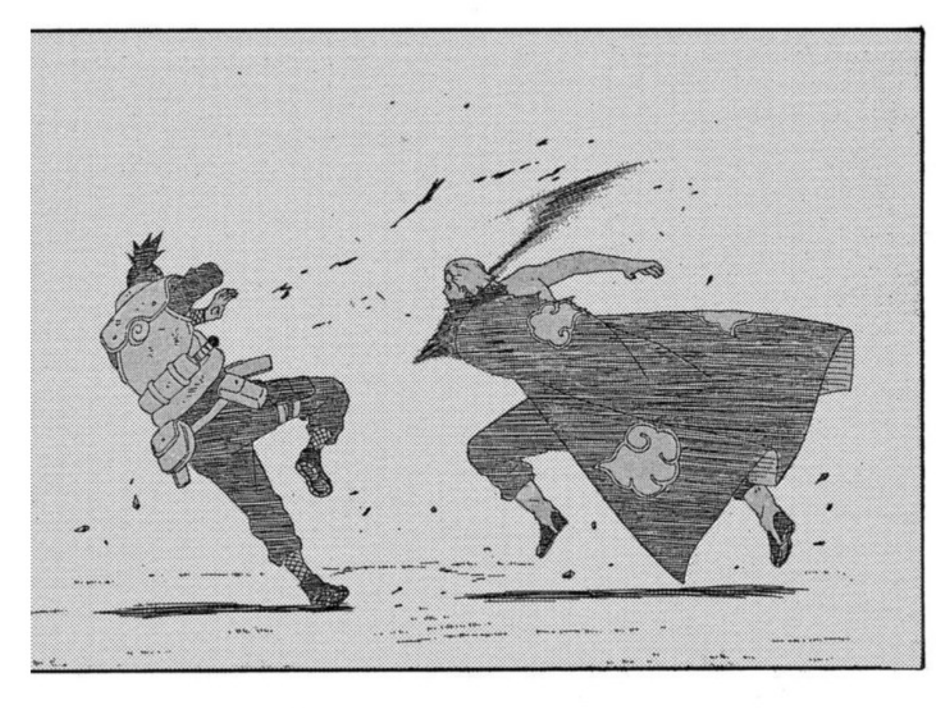

...AND THEN HAND IT OVER TO ME...
...SO I COULD TRAP YOU...
SHFF

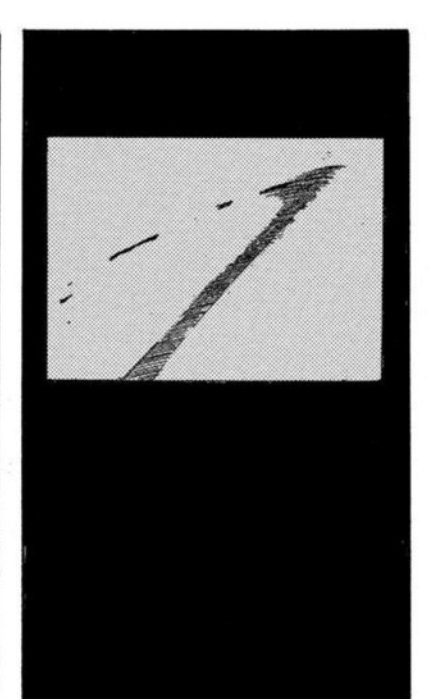

READ THIS WAY

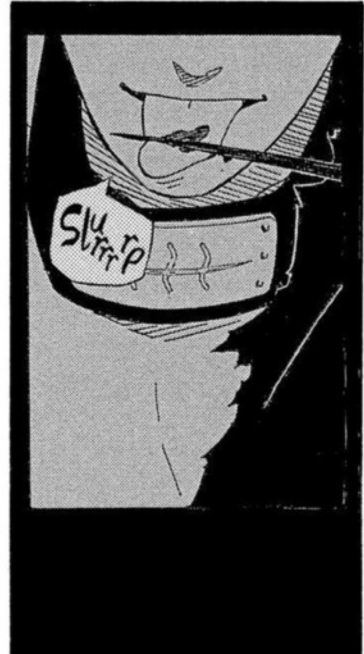

CLICK



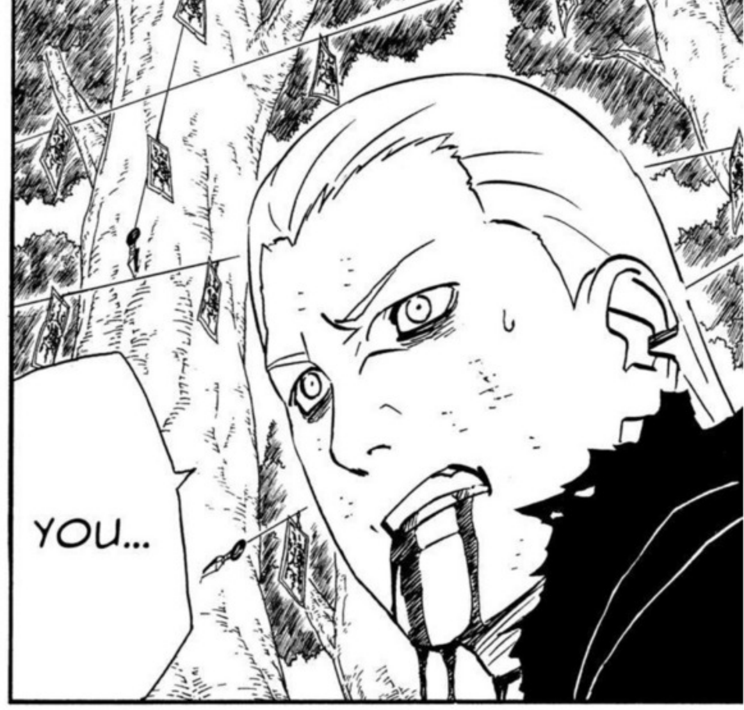

SQUIRT
SPLICH





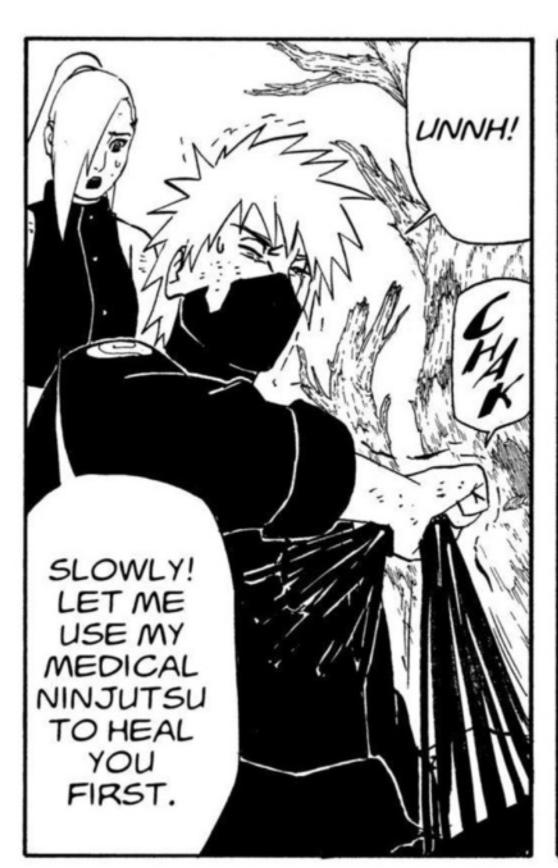

Slurrrrp

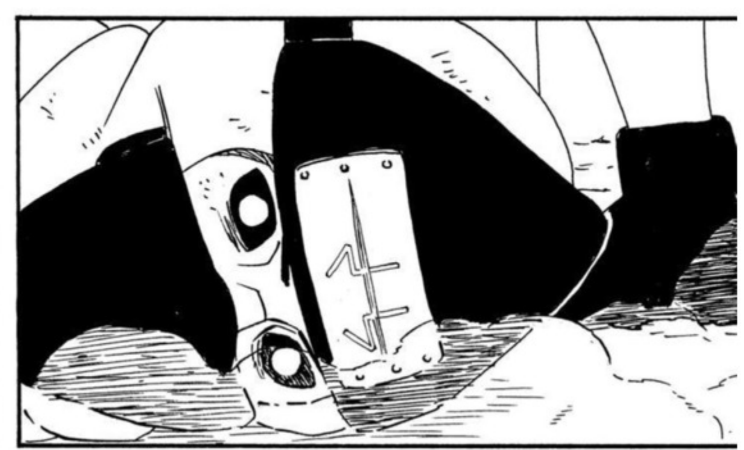

...THAT WAS OUR PLAN.


YOU...


FUMP


MASTER KAKASHI!

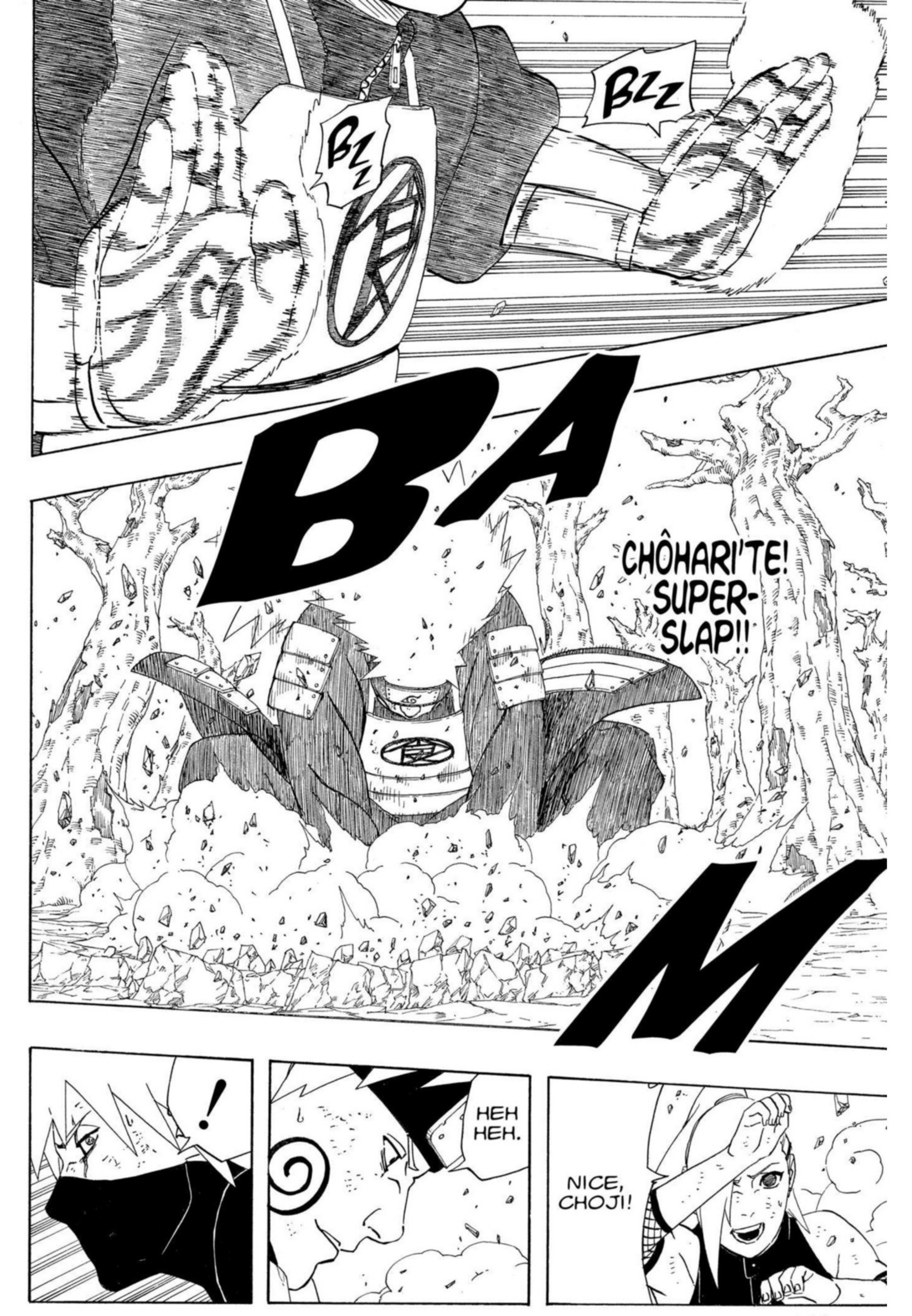

UNNH!
CHAK
SLOWLY! LET ME USE MY MEDICAL NINJUTSU TO HEAL YOU FIRST.




TREAT ME LATER!
SQUICH!!



WHOOSH
!
!
STOMP
CLAP
BAIKA NO JUTSU! THE ART OF EXPANSION!!
BA-BOOF


BZZ
BZZ
BAM
CHÔHARI'TE! SUPER-SLAP!!
NICE, CHOJI!
HEH HEH.
!


READ
THIS
WAY


SWZZZ
BOOF


SPLOOCH


GAH!
SPLOOCH
!


SPLOOCH
SHOOP


...!


!

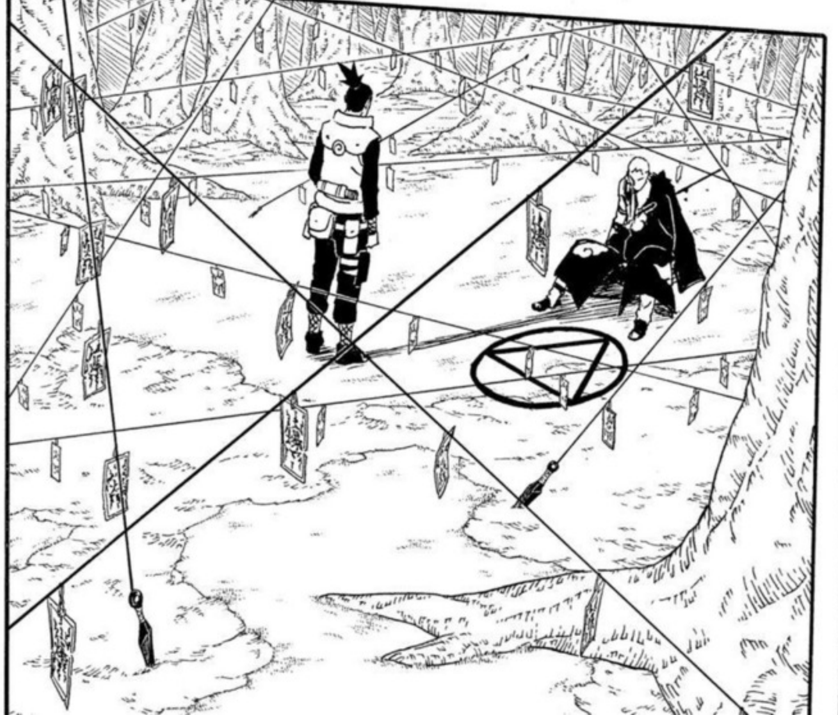

KSSSH

SWZZZ

TWO OF MY HEARTS GONE...

...BEEN A REAL LONG TIME... SINCE THAT'S HAP-PENED...



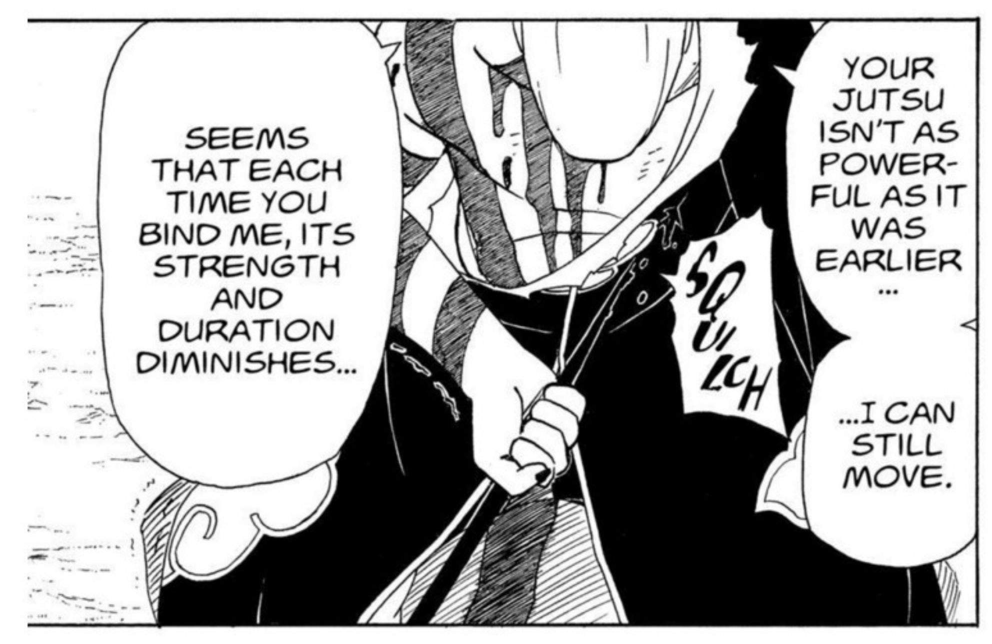



READ
THIS
WAY

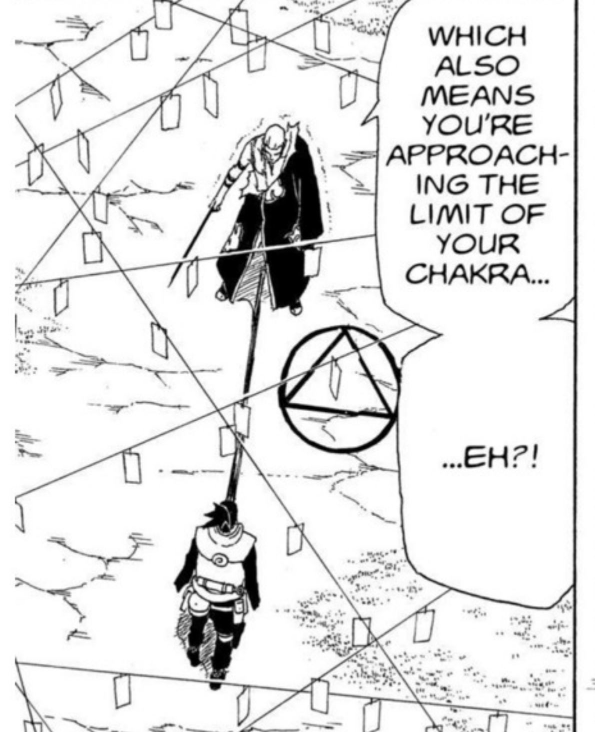

HEH HEH HEH...
!


PUTTING AN OPPONENT UNDER THE SAME JUTSU SO MANY TIMES...
...EVEN AN IDIOT WOULD START PICKING UP ON ITS DETAILS...


...

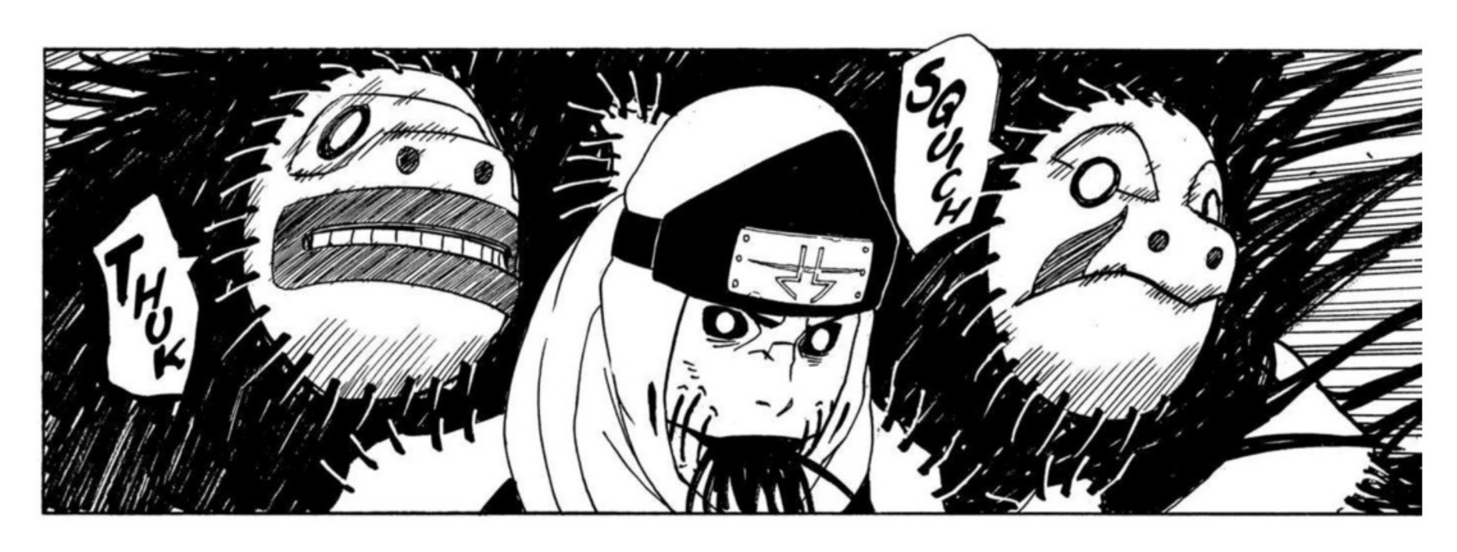

YOUR JUTSU ISN'T AS POWER-FUL AS IT WAS EARLIER ...
...I CAN STILL MOVE.
SQUELCH
SEEMS THAT EACH TIME YOU BIND ME, ITS STRENGTH AND DURATION DIMINISHES...

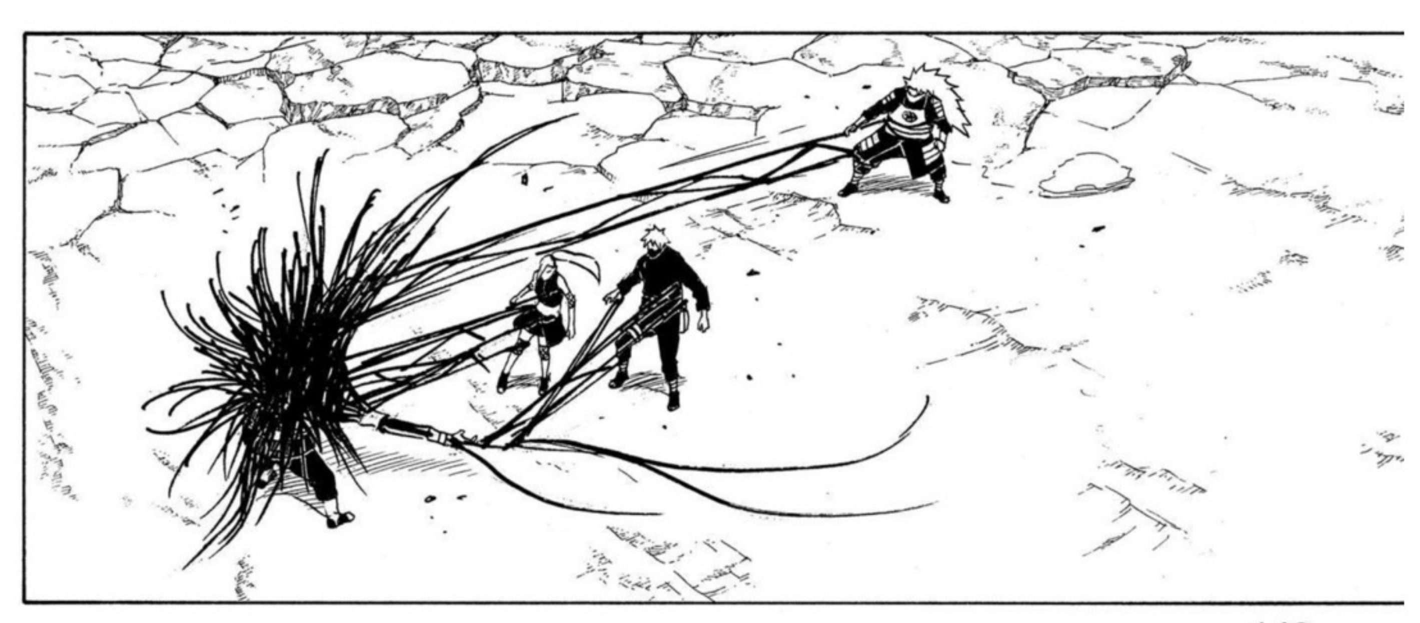

...WHICH MEANS THE MORE YOU USE YOUR SHADOW ART...
...THE MORE ITS OVERALL EFFECTIVE-NESS IS COMPRO-MISED.
RRNNHH


WHICH ALSO MEANS YOU'RE APPROACH-ING THE LIMIT OF YOUR CHAKRA...
...EH?!


UHNH ...
KLAK


GWA-HA HA HA HA HA!!


SGUICH
THUK











DIE...!
WHIRR
CLOP

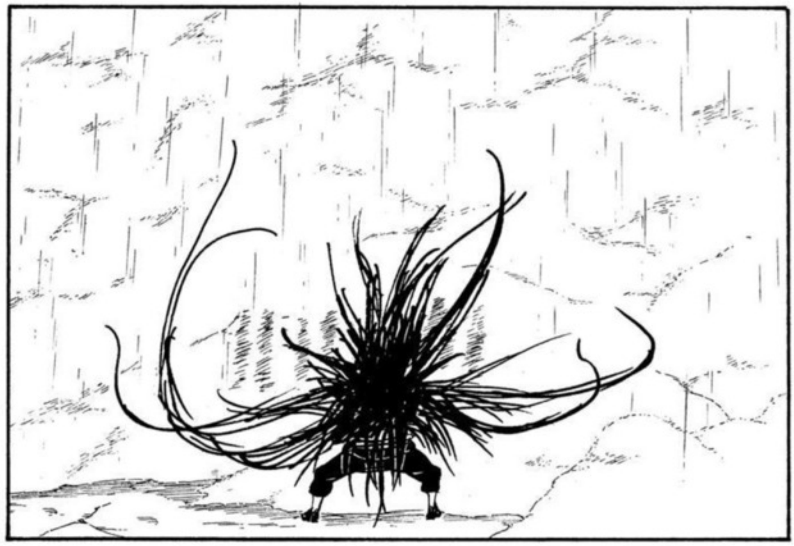
!!


FÛTON RASENGAN! WIND STYLE, RASENGAN!!
SUITON HAHONRYÛ! WATER STYLE, RIPPING TORRENT!!
THUNK
GUFÛSUIKA NO JUTSU! ART OF THE HURRICANE VORTEX!!
ROAR


READ THIS WAY

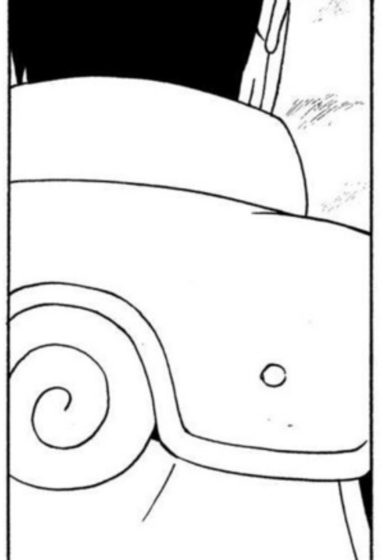

VOOOSH...


?!
WHOOOSH...










SORRY WE'RE LATE!


TA-DA


NARUTO

Number 338: Payback...












...ANOTHER WEIRDO SHOWS UP...
...AND ALREADY DISHEVELED...?


...

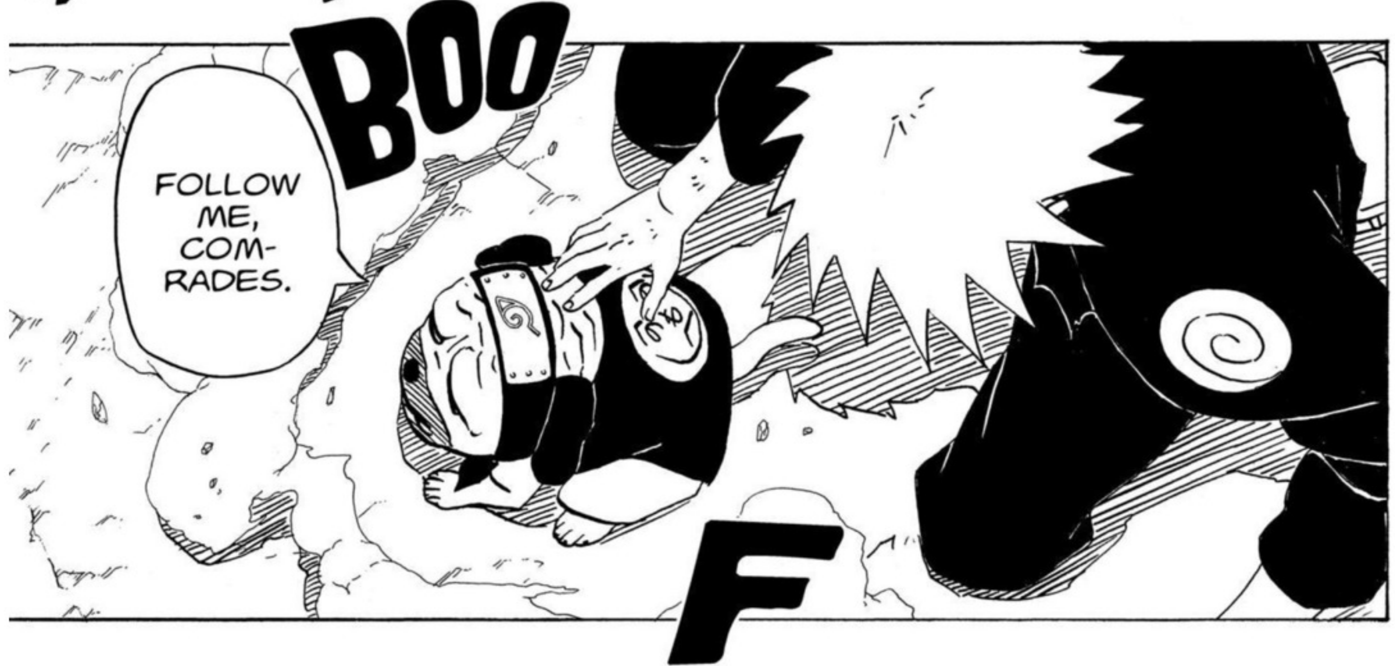

... WHERE'S SHIKA-MARU?

READ THIS WAY
















HEH HEH... MORE POTENTIAL REPLACEMENT HEARTS... EXCELLENT...


KRUNCH

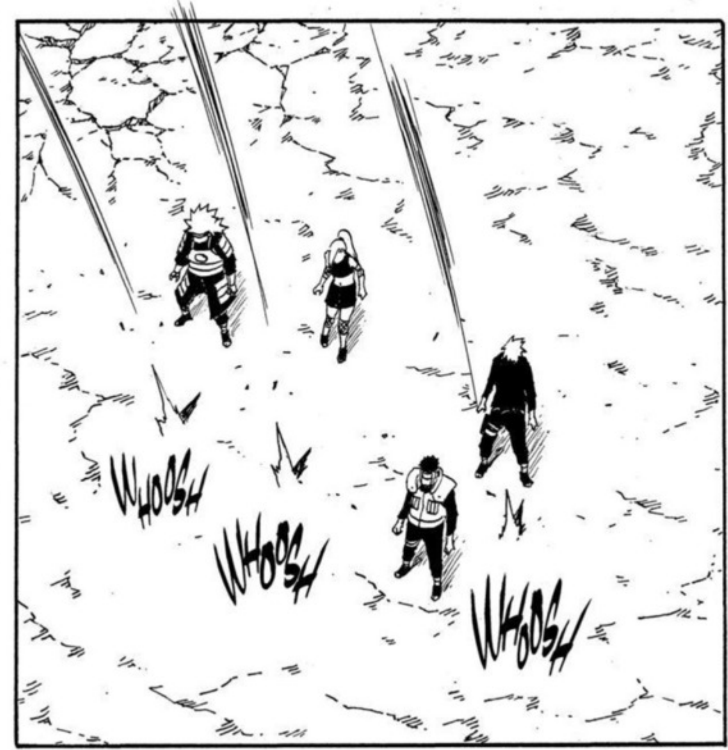
NUH-UH, SLIME FACE... THIS IS **MY** SHOW NOW...

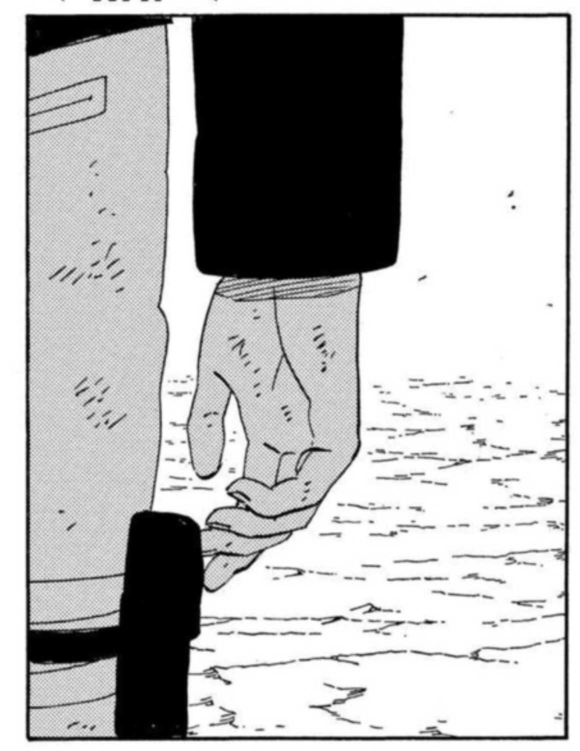

SHF...
LET'S GO!


NARUTO, WE'RE COUNTING ON YOU!




READ THIS WAY


WHOOSH
WHOOSH
WHOOSH



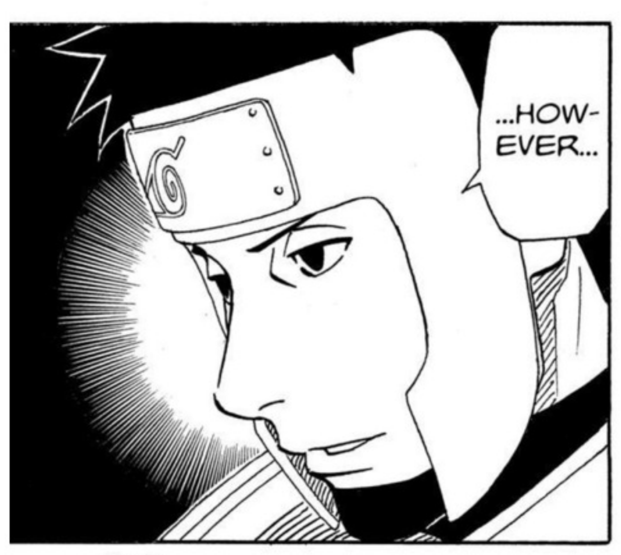

HE'S... PER-FECTED IT...?


...


NO...
IT WORKS ONLY ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE TIME...

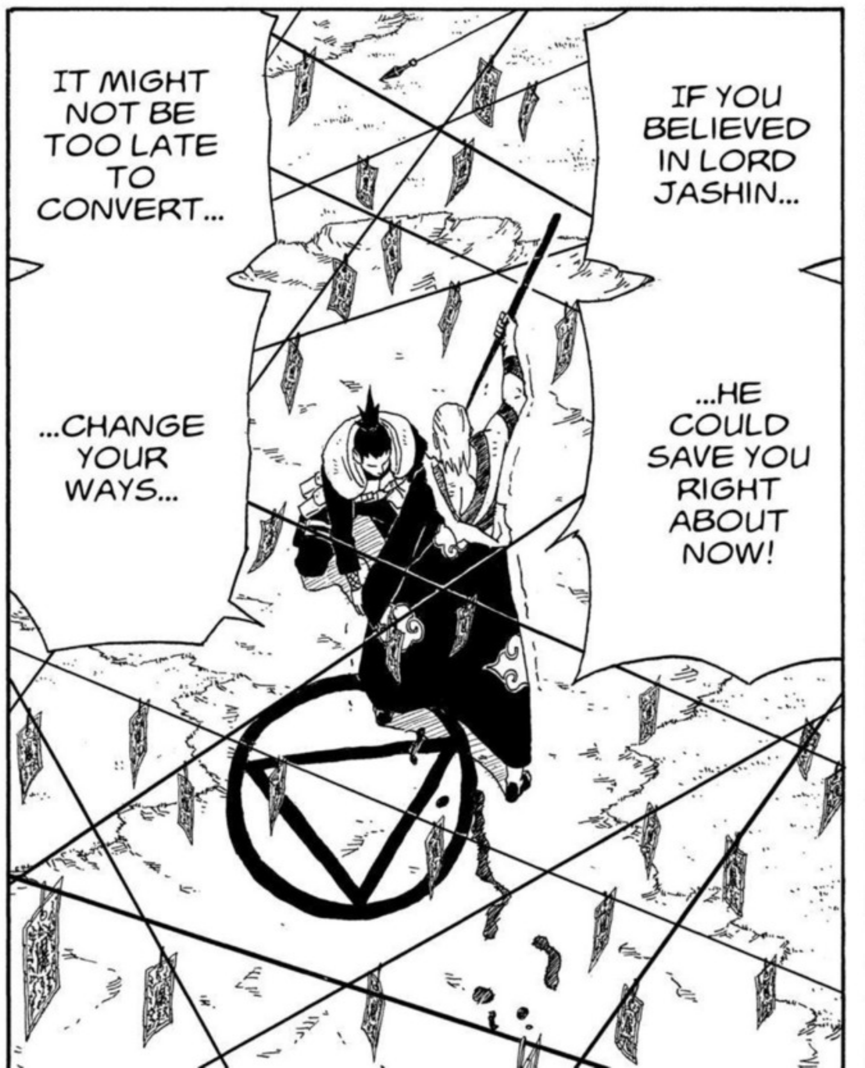



...I SEE...


...HOW-EVER...

WELL, JUST KEEP WATCHING.
YOU'LL SEE... NARUTO'S COME A LONG WAY...







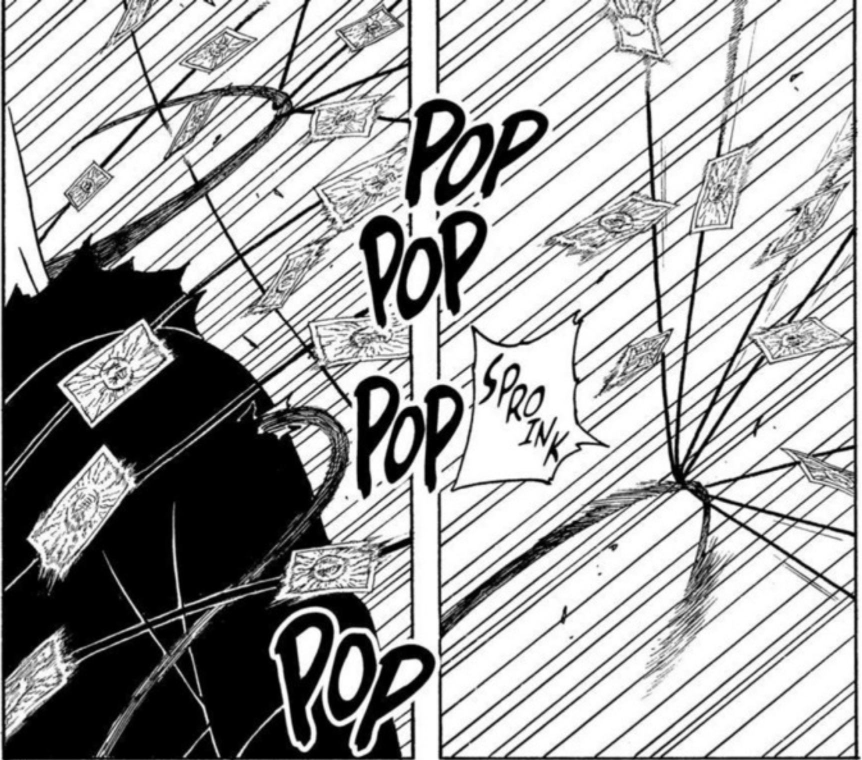
...AH, JUST KIDDING, FOOL!

CHA-SHUNK

?!

THANKS... BUT I CAN SAVE MYSELF!


FWAP
FWAP
GAAH...!
CLENCH
KAGEYOSE NO JUTSU! ART OF THE SHADOW PULL!!
SWZZZZZ


POP
POP
POP
SPROINK
POP

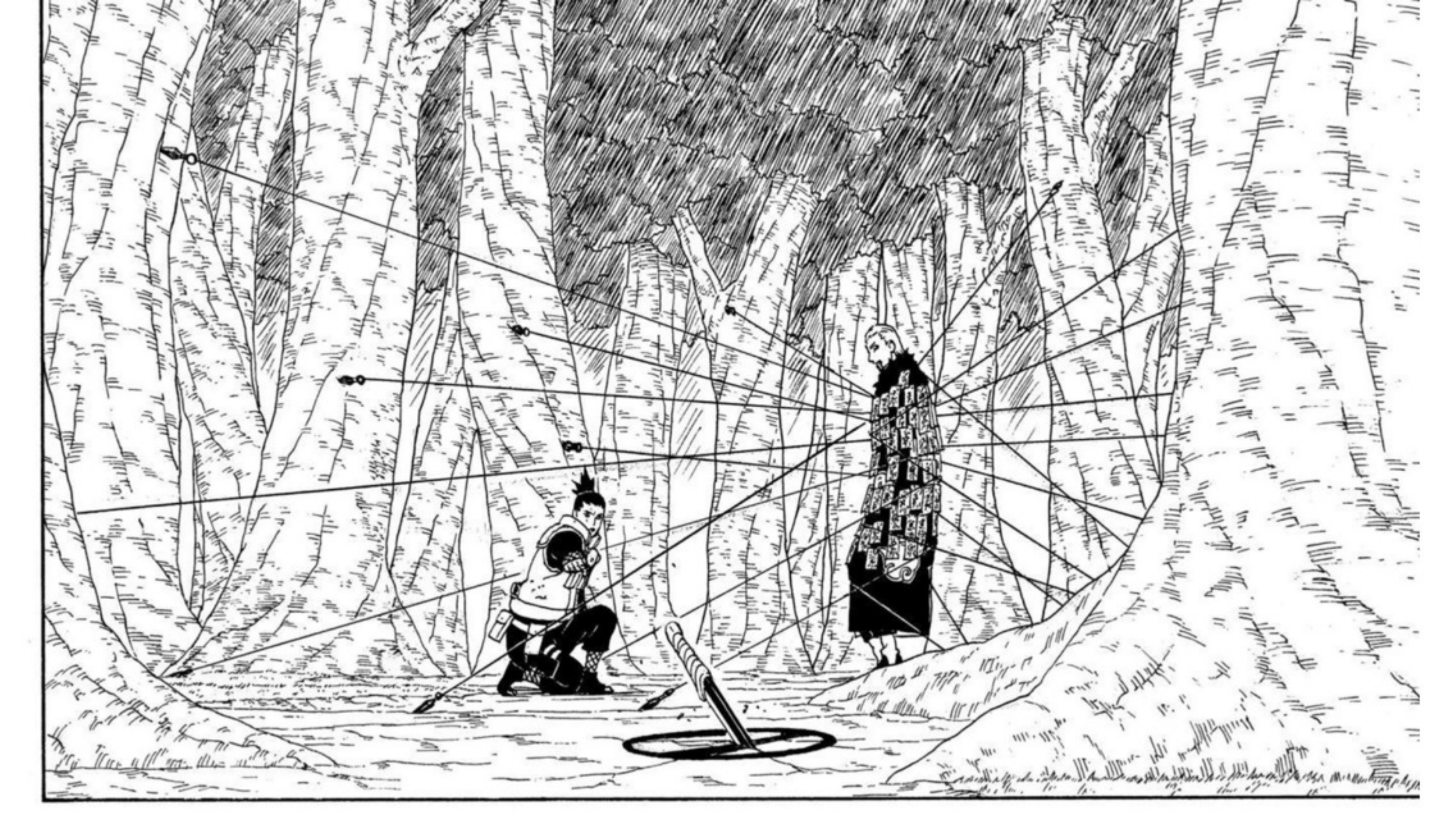

TWANG


YOU...


!!

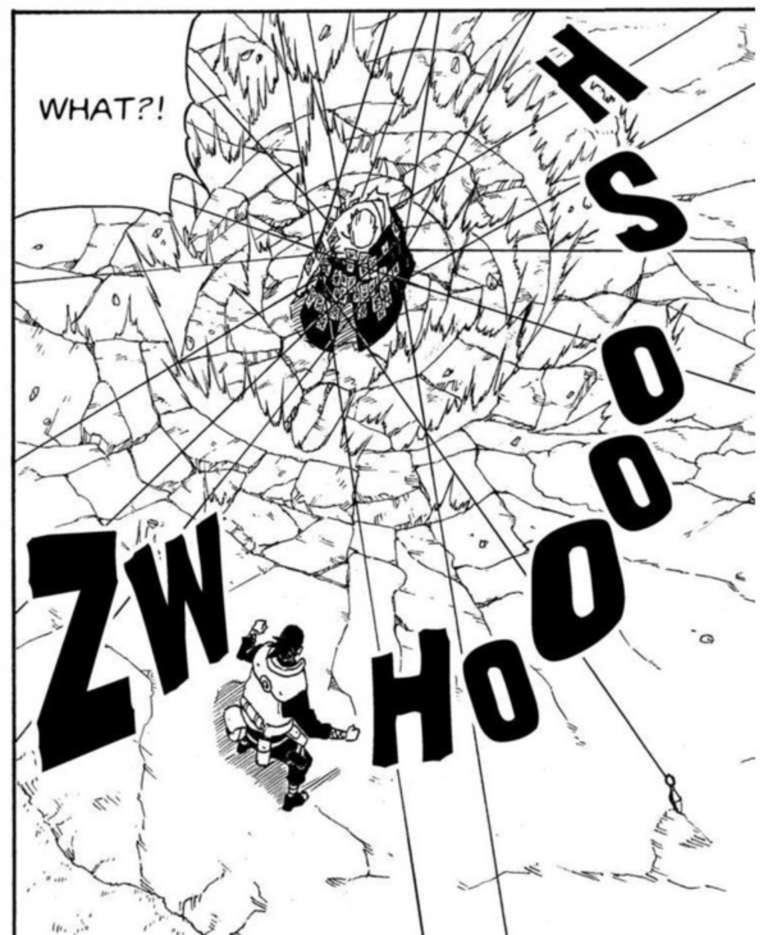



THOK

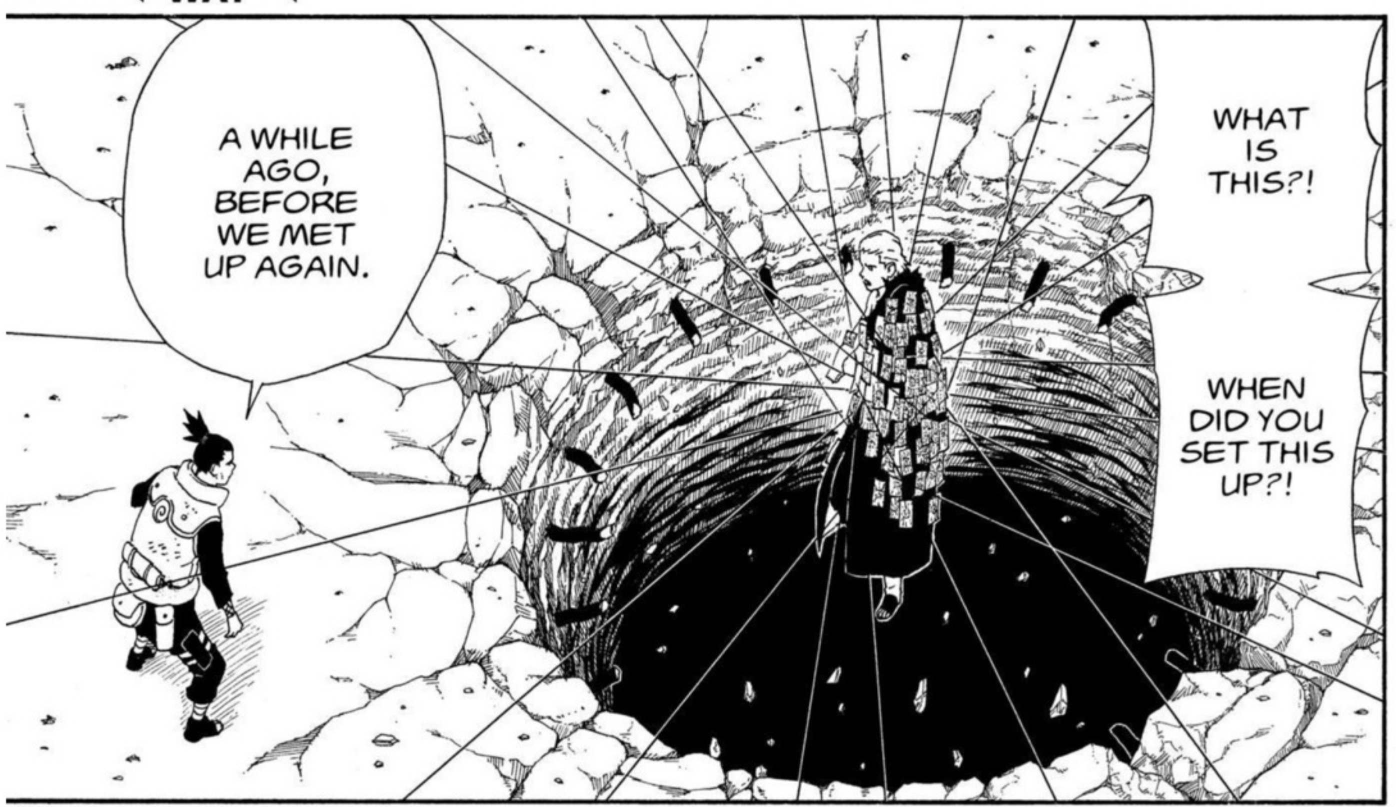


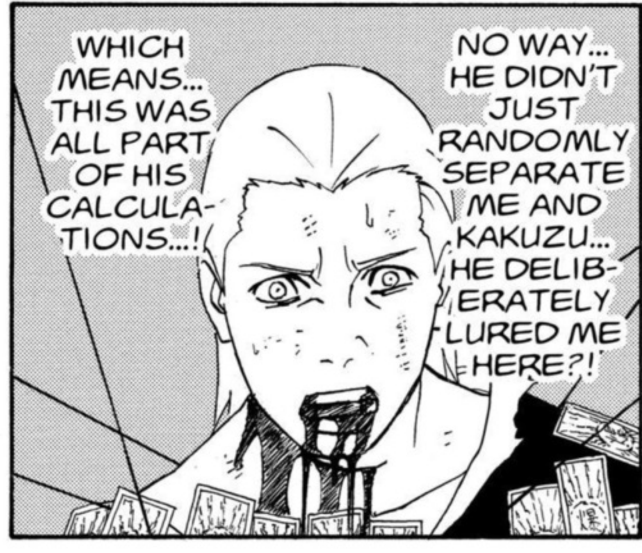

CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE
CRUMBLE

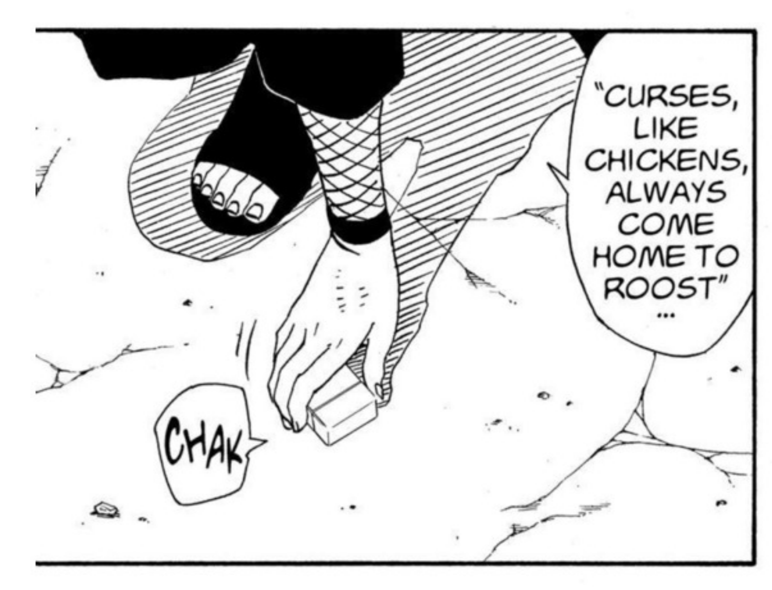

CRACK
CRACK
CRACK


WHAT?!
ZWHOOOOOSH


READ THIS WAY


WHAT IS THIS?!
WHEN DID YOU SET THIS UP?!
A WHILE AGO, BEFORE WE MET UP AGAIN.


NO WAY... HE DIDN'T JUST RANDOMLY SEPARATE ME AND KAKUZU... HE DELIBERATELY LURED ME HERE?!
WHICH MEANS... THIS WAS ALL PART OF HIS CALCULATIONS...!


"CURSES, LIKE CHICKENS, ALWAYS COME HOME TO ROOST" ...
CHAK


YOU CURSED MY TEACHER DEAD.
WHOOSH


CAN'T JUST LET YOU KEEP LIVING, RUNNING AROUND FREE.



THAT THERE IS YOUR GRAVE.







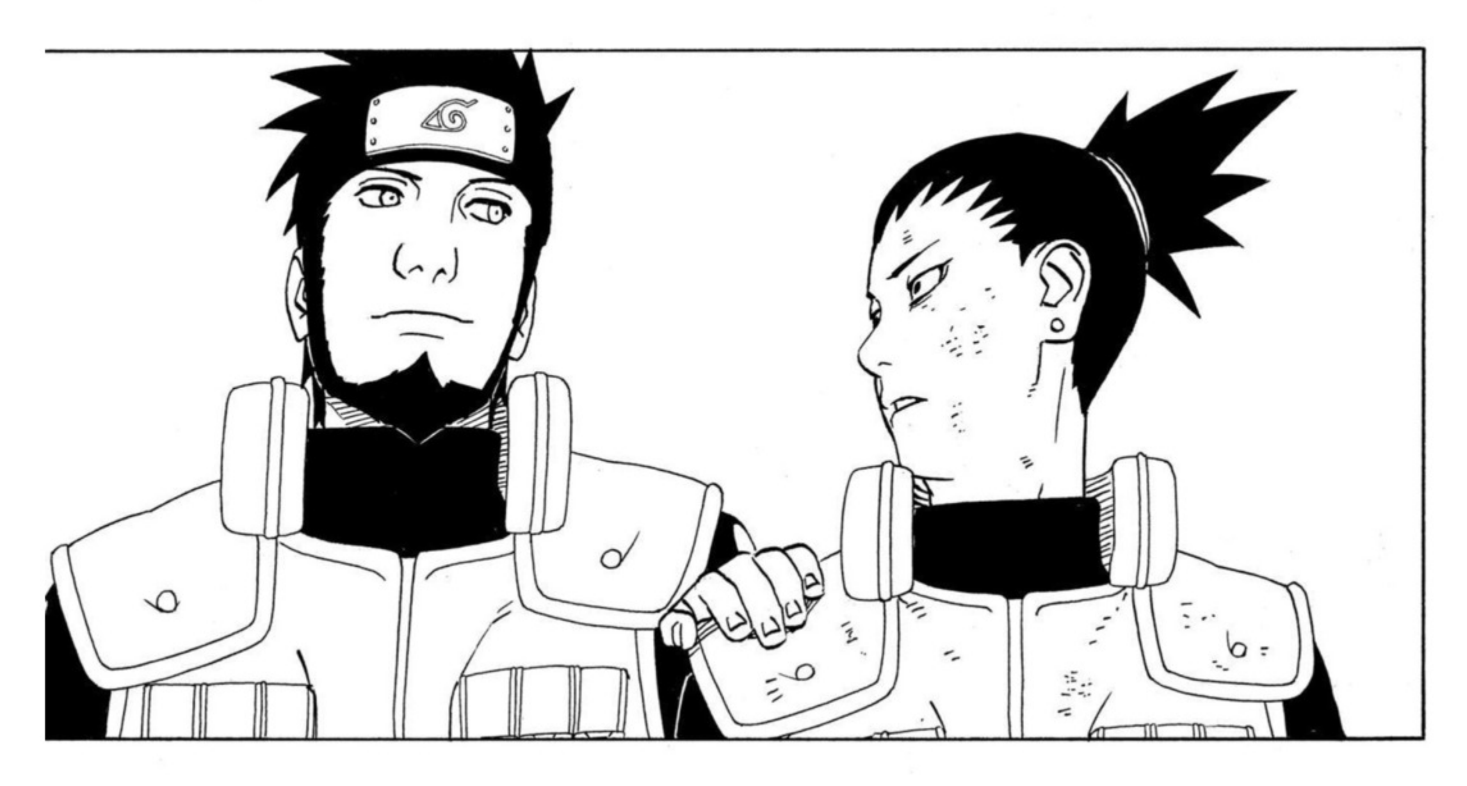





READ
THIS
WAY


ONCE YOU DO, WE CAN WATCH YOU FOR ALL ETERNITY ...

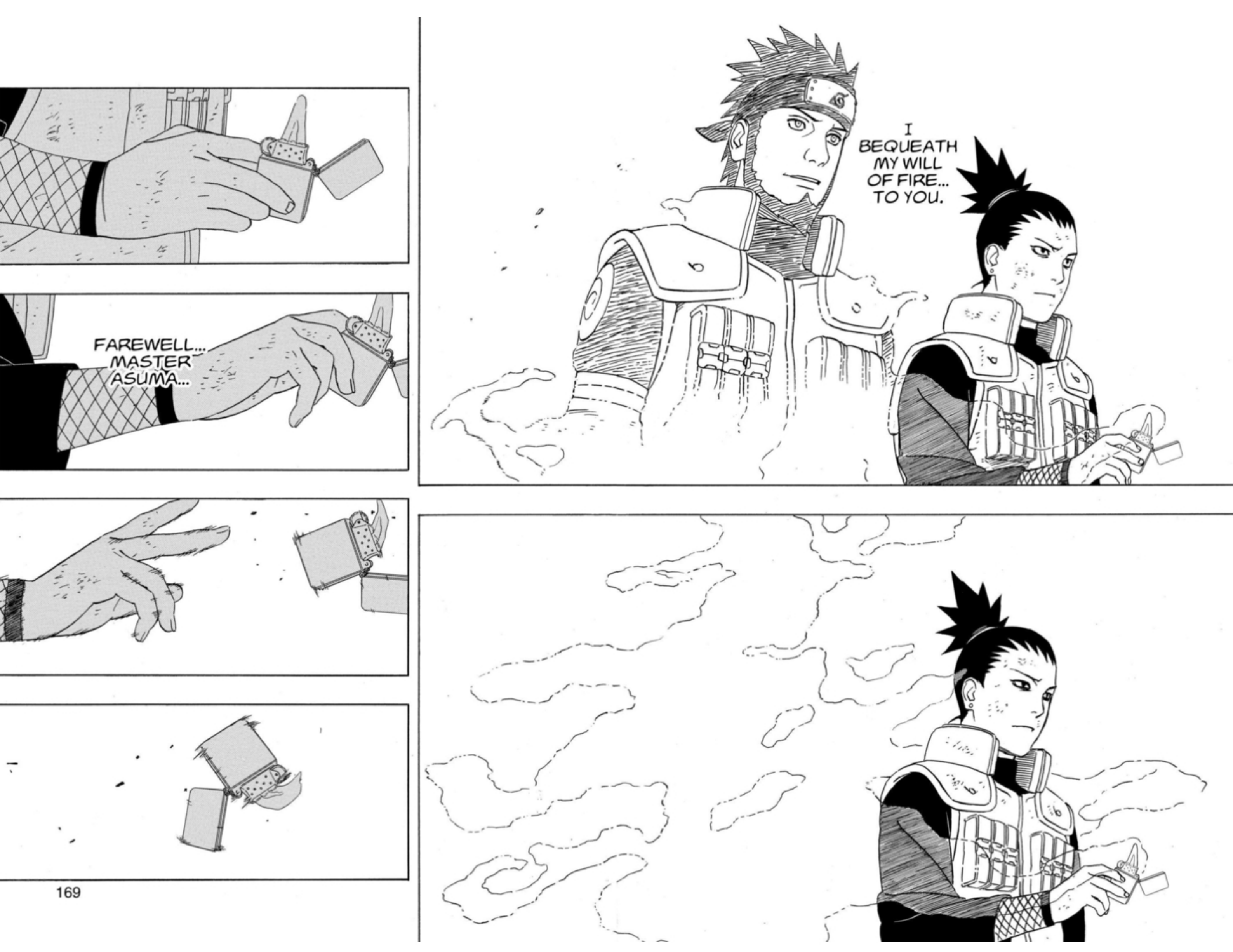

TAP




GOOD WORK, SHIKA-MARU...


THANKS ...

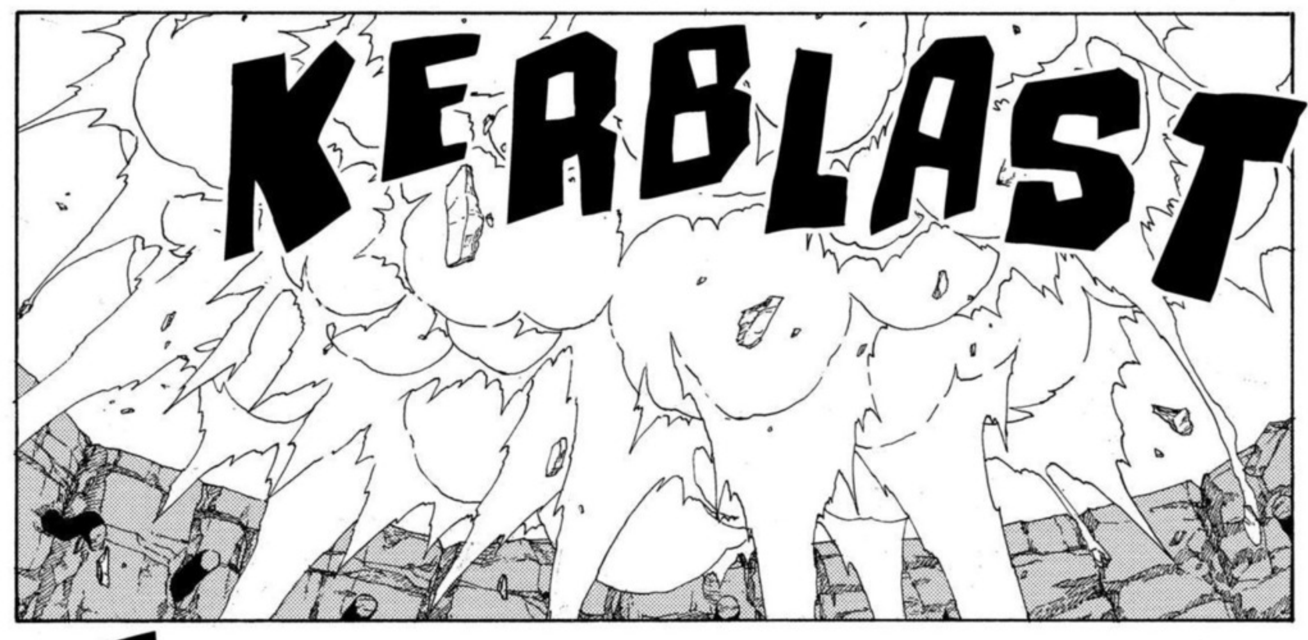



I BEQUEATH MY WILL OF FIRE... TO YOU.
FAREWELL... MASTER ASUMA...


爆
爆
爆
爆
KABOOM


NARUTO

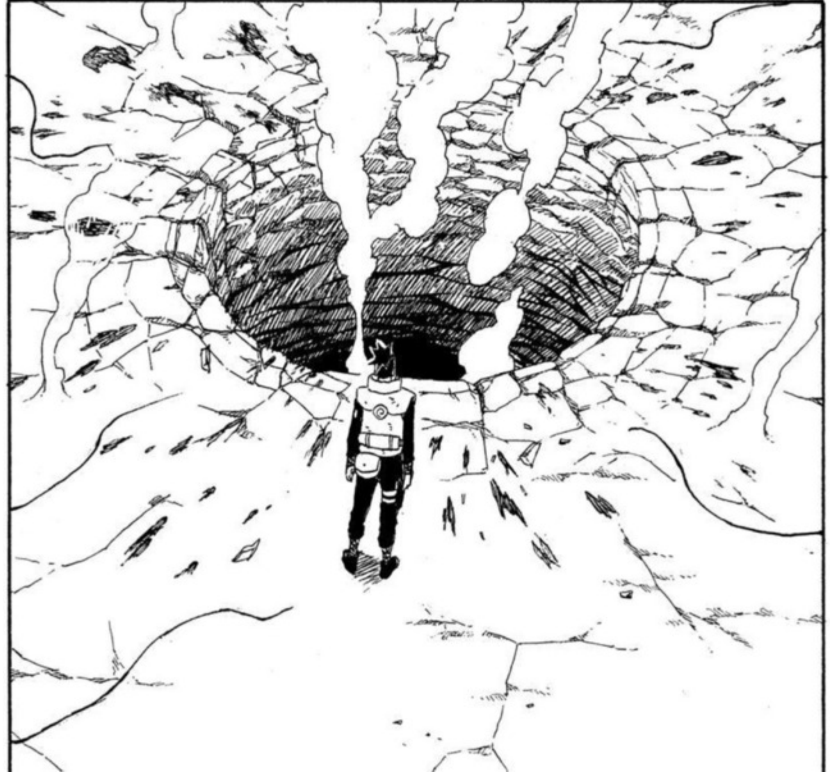
Number 339: The New Jutsu...!!





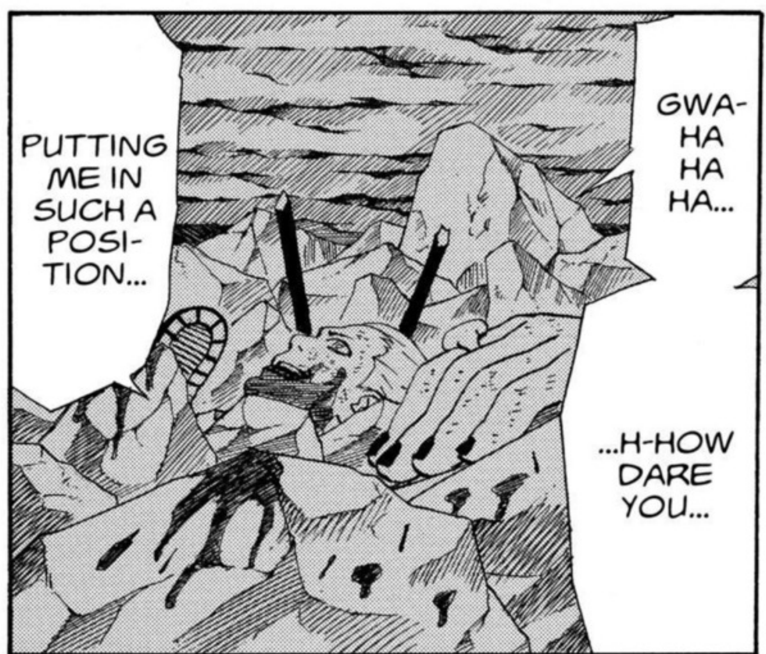




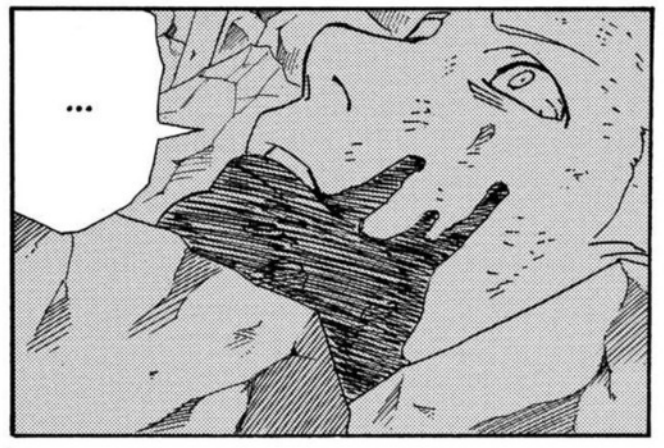


Number 339: The New Jutsu...!!





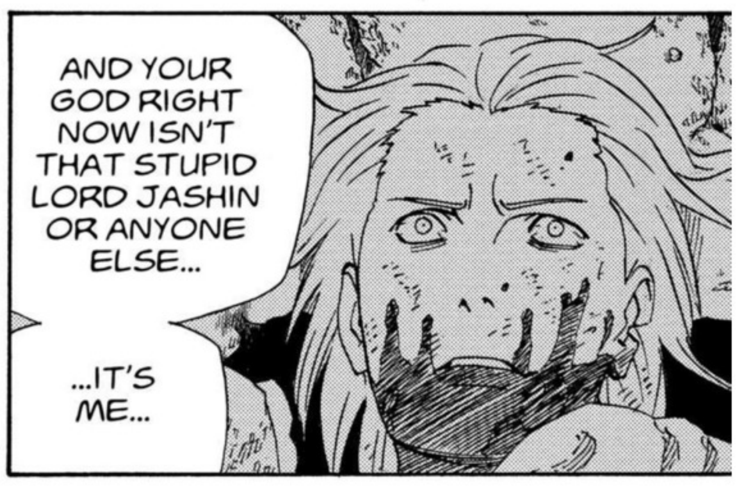





I SWEAR, LORD JASHIN WILL PUNISH YOU!!
THE SEVEREST JUDGMENT EVER DEALT BY THE CHURCH OF JASHIN...


YOU DON'T SCARE ME A BIT. NEITHER DOES YOUR GOD.
YOU AND ME, WE BELIEVE IN DIFFERENT THINGS.
THIP

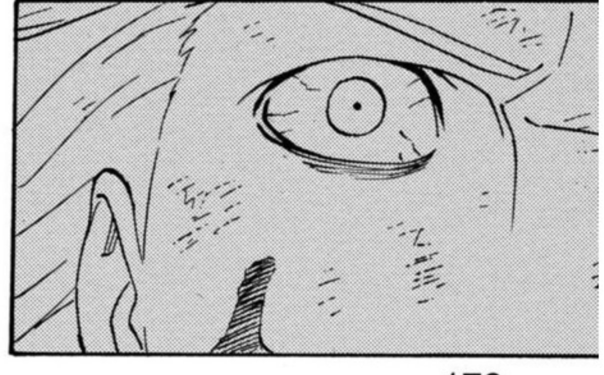

ME, I BELIEVE IN THE WILL OF FIRE.


AND YOUR GOD RIGHT NOW ISN'T THAT STUPID LORD JASHIN OR ANYONE ELSE...
...IT'S ME...


...AND I'M PASSING JUDG-MENT ON YOU!
SHING...


THOK
FWHOSH

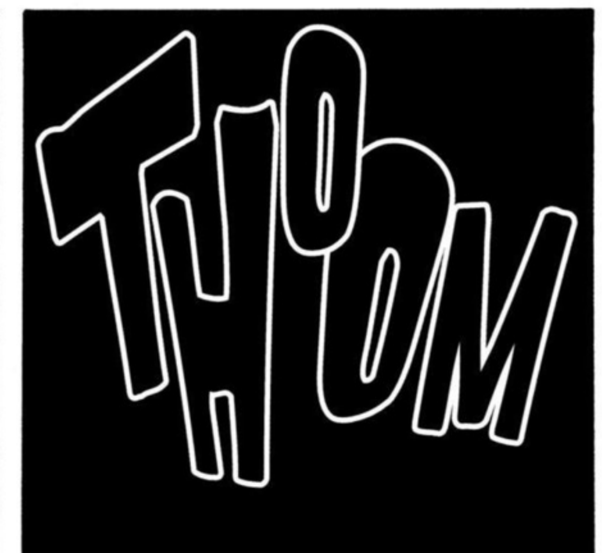

BOOM

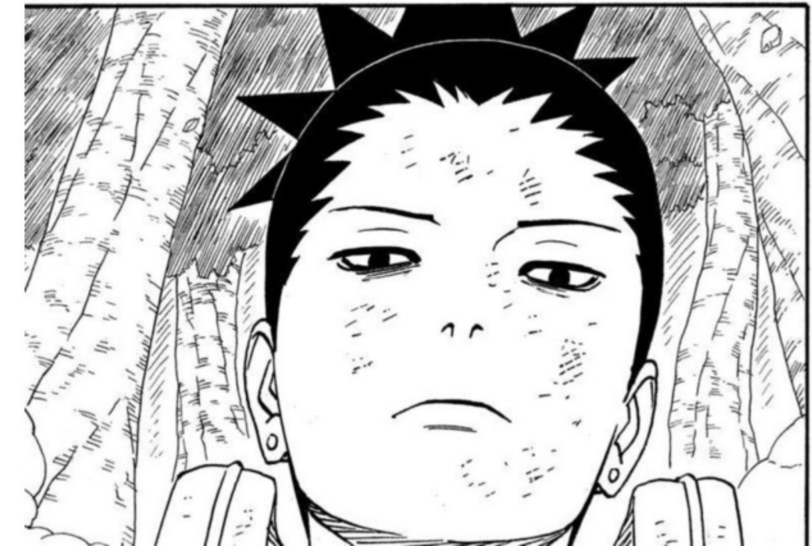


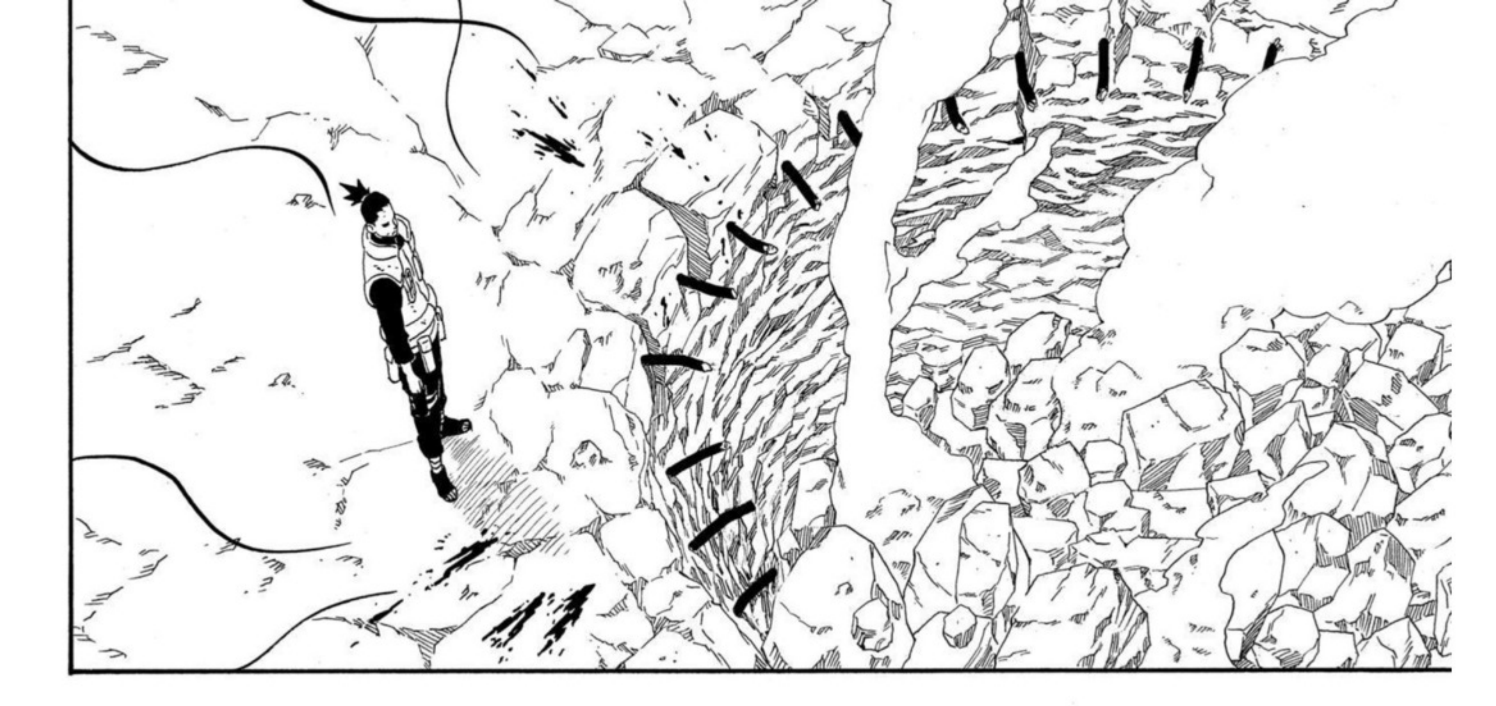
I WARNED YOU!
THE CHURCH OF JASHIN WILL PUNISH YOU!
EH?!









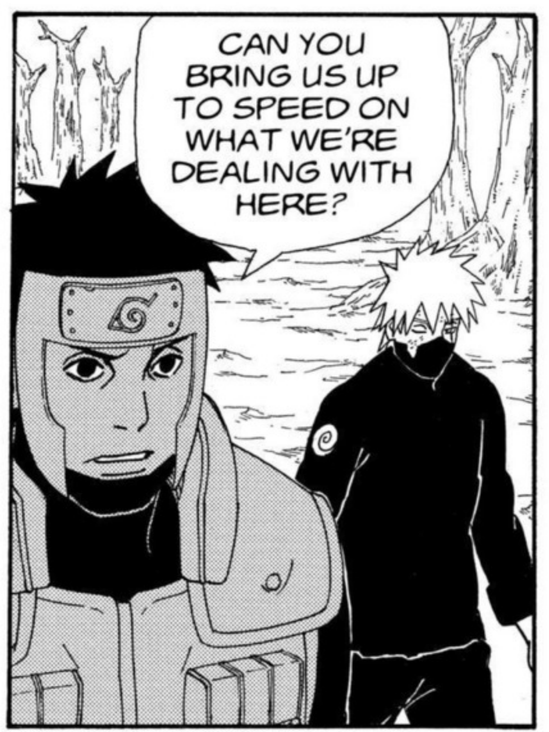



MULTIPLE SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS ...

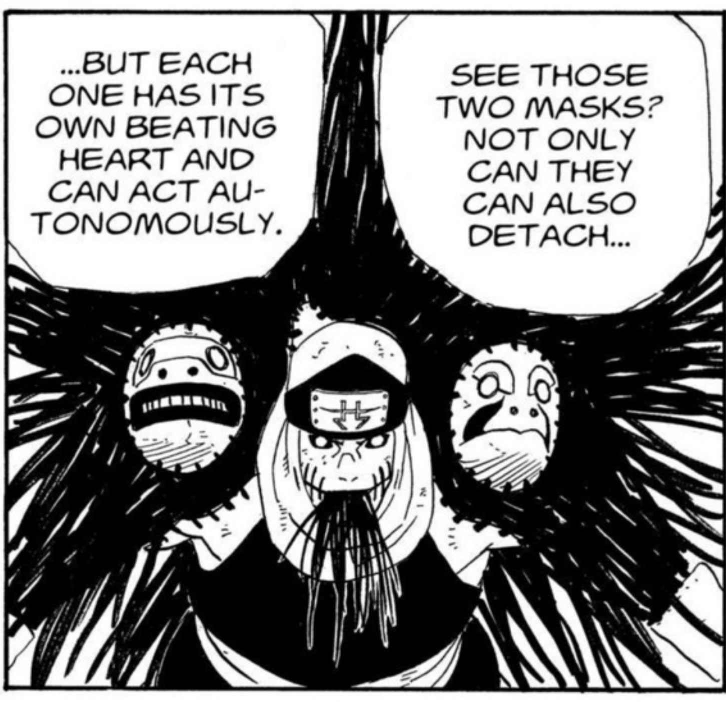


SO... YOU'RE NINE TAILS'... JINCHÛRIKI...


READ THIS WAY


CAN YOU BRING US UP TO SPEED ON WHAT WE'RE DEALING WITH HERE?


TWO AKATSUKI MEMBERS... THE ONE SHIKAMARU IS FACING...
...AND THIS ONE HERE... KAKUZU...
HE POSSESSES THE ABILITY TO DETACH HIS BODY PARTS...


SEE THOSE TWO MASKS? NOT ONLY CAN THEY CAN ALSO DETACH...
...BUT EACH ONE HAS ITS OWN BEATING HEART AND CAN ACT AUTONOMOUSLY.


HE STARTED WITH FIVE...
...BUT NOW HE'S DOWN TO THREE...


YOU MEAN ...?


WE'VE KILLED HIM TWICE SO FAR, YES.
AND HE WON'T GO DOWN FOR GOOD UNLESS WE KILL HIM THREE MORE TIMES.





HOO
YEAH, YEAH... FIVE HEARTS, THREE MORE KILLS... GOT IT!
SH

YOU CAN'T GO IN BY YOURSELF!
NARUTO! WAIT!


READ
THIS
WAY


FWAP FWAP
!!


SSHHF


!


BOOF
HSSS
WHOSSH
!


VROWWW
HRRRN
!!
KLAK...



SHFF...
BOOF
JUST YOUR SHADOW DOPPEL-GANGERS?
YOU'LL NEVER WIN THAT WAY.








READ
THIS
WAY


!


...




FWP
FWP

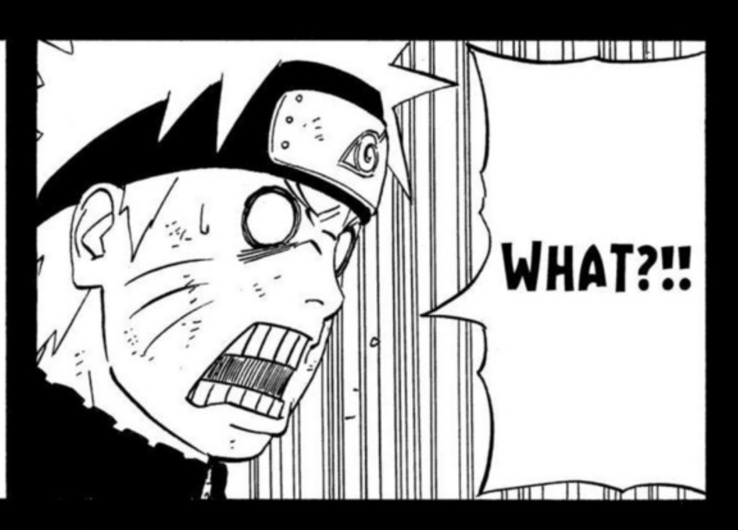

WHEEN


WHAT... IS THAT...?
ZWP
ZWP


WHAT HIGH-PITCHED VIBRATIONS...
... INCREDIBLE CHAKRA ...
ZWP
ZWP


WHEEN
THIS IS AS FAR AS I'VE EVER GOTTEN ...
FINALLY... IT AT LEAST HAS A SHAPE...
WHEEN
ALL RIGHT... LET'S SEE WHAT IT CAN DO, BY COLLIDING IT WITH MY RASENGAN.
READY?


READ THIS WAY


WHAT?!!






KLAK...
NNNH ...




...!



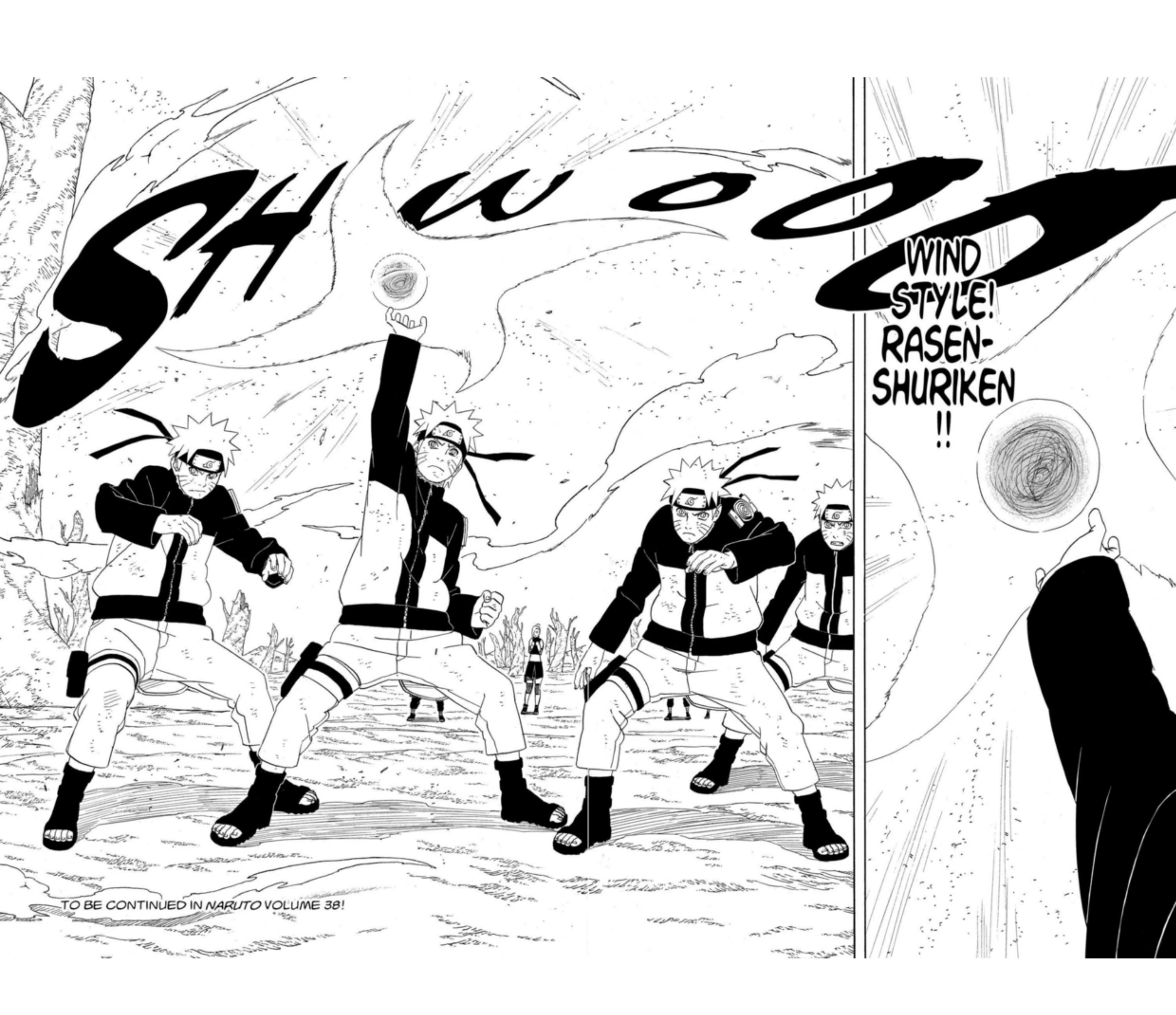


FWOO

K SSSSH...


WHAT THE... WHAT IS THAT JUTSU?!


IF I GET HIT WITH THAT... IT'LL BE BAD...
...MUSTN'T LET IT HAPPEN!


WIND STYLE! RASEN-SHURIKEN !!
SHWOO
TO BE CONTINUED IN *NARUTO* VOLUME 38!